



# VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS *of Arizona*

SPRING 2011

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING COST-EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

## 2010/2011 OFFICERS

President

**Bobby Apodaca**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

**BK Meriman**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President

**Charles A. Vega**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Larry Kerrigan**

1-Year Board Member

**Carlos Garcia**

**Thomas Snodderly**

2-Year Board Member

**Patrick Anderson**

**Jerry Lopez**

Past President

**Chris Murphy**

Newsletter Chairman

**Jim Costello**

National Volunteer

Fire Council Director

**Robert Hooker**

Alternate Director

**Ted Smith**

State Training

Committee

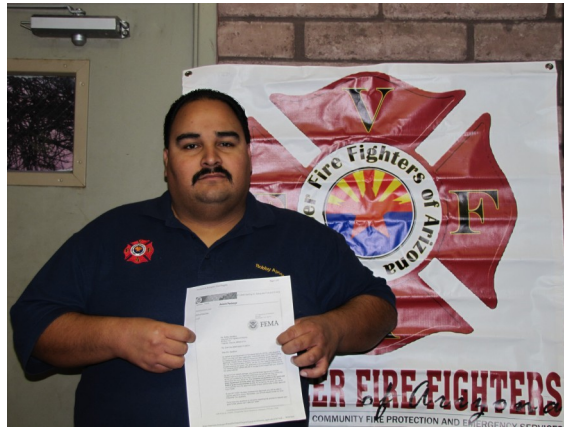
Representative

**B.K. Merriman**

Scholarship

Committee Chairman

**Ed Lopez**



### Why Is This Campaign Needed?

Throughout rural Arizona, citizens and current firefighters are at risk because of the lack of volunteer firefighters to adequately protect people and property from fire and fire-related hazards. As call volume increases, more departments depend on volunteer firefighters. Throughout Arizona, over 2 million citizens are protected by volunteer or combination departments. In order to comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, the Arizona fire service must increase the number of volunteer firefighters by 30 percent.

VFFA attributes the volunteer recruitment problem to the lack of communication between the fire service and the public. The public does not realize there is a need for volunteer firefighters and does not know where to obtain more information about becoming a volunteer firefighter.

To turnaround the declining trend of volunteer firefighters, VFFA was awarded a retention and recruitment SAFER grant.

### How Will the Grant Funds Be Spent?

The grant funds will be used to implement a media marketing program. This is a volunteer recruitment marketing campaign focused on raising awareness about the need for volunteer firefighters. The integrated marketing campaign will be modeled after the successful campaigns designed and implemented in Alaska, Idaho, and California. VFFA will implement the same components that were successful in these campaigns, such as television commercials, printed material, online Facebook ads, and an interactive web site with an application distribution process.

VFFA will track responses and collect applications from prospective volunteers, then send the information about the prospective volunteers to local fire service leaders in the respective area. Throughout the next 4 years, the marketing campaign should generate more than 3,500 responses from prospective volunteers.

### What Is Your Role?

This project depends on the active participation of Arizona's fire service leaders. Your role can be summed up in four easy steps:

- Contact the prospective volunteer within 2 weeks of receiving the lead
- Educate prospective volunteers about your department's volunteer program
- Provide prospective volunteers with an application and other materials needed to volunteer
- Complete follow up surveys sent by the VFFA

SAFER grant funding is being provided by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and VFFA has the responsibility to report all of the grant activities and the final results of these activities.

### Who Will Manage the Campaign?

The Redden Group will be the VFFA Project Manager. The Redden Group has assisted a variety of clients for over 26 years with retention and recruitment initiatives, from local fire departments to the National Volunteer Fire Council.

The Redden Group provides associations like yours the tools to apply for and manage SAFER grants. They oversee the management of 8 DHS SAFER grants across the country, ranging from local incentive programs to statewide media campaigns. The Redden Group team is available to help all VFFA members obtain and manage additional SAFER grants. You can learn more by emailing [greg@reddengroup.org](mailto:greg@reddengroup.org), calling 208-345-5109, or visiting the Redden Group's web site at [www.reddengroup.org](http://www.reddengroup.org).

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS OF ARIZONA is published four times a year. Please direct all inquiries, story ideas, advertising and requests for additional copies to Jim Costello, 568 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Thatcher, AZ 85552. Some articles reprinted with permission from NVFC Website & E-Updates.

## Safer Grant

### VFFA Volunteer Firefighter Retention and Recruitment Campaign

By Kate Redden, VFFA Grant Manager

In the last VFFA Newsletter, VFFA President Chief Bobby Apodaca announced that VFFA was awarded a 4-year Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant in the amount of \$930,400. The SAFER grant aims to retain and recruit additional volunteer firefighters throughout Arizona communities. This grant was awarded to help you increase the number of total volunteers in your department and will be successful if all Arizona fire service leaders work together to take full advantage of the opportunities included in the grant.



## A Message

# *From* **Your President...**

At our January meeting the VFFA board discussed the start of our Safer grant. I have appointed a Safer grant committee and I have confidence in them to make the right decisions throughout the grant process. We will be working closely with our grant manager The Redden group. We will be in attendance at the Arizona fire service leadership conference and Arizona state fire school, to name a few events. January was the start of the grant and our first DHS reimbursement has already been submitted.

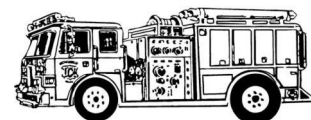
If you are not yet a member of our organization, I encourage you to join today. There are many benefits to being a part of the VFFA. I always look forward to meeting with the new and current members. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or any of the board members. Be proud to be a Volunteer Firefighter!

Sincerely,  
Bobby Apodaca, President  
Volunteer Firefighters of Arizona



## Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona 2010-2011 Association Officers

<b>President</b>	<p><b>Bobby Apodaca</b>  <b>Winkelman Volunteer Fire Department</b>                      PO Box 585                      Winkelman, Arizona 85292                      Cell Phone: 520-235-0189                      Cell Phone: 520-591-0631                      Email: chiefapodaca@gmail.com</p>	<b>Past President</b>	<p><b>Chris Murphy</b>  <b>Safford Volunteer Fire Department</b>                      1228 5th Avenue                      Safford, Arizona 85546                      Mobile Phone: 928-651-5491                      Work Phone: 928-428-2442                      Email: hosetest@gmail.com</p>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	<p><b>BK Merriman</b>                      1761 S. Robinson Ranch Road                      Thatcher, Arizona 85552                      Cell Phone: 928-651-1122                      Email: bkpolly@yahoo.com</p>	<b>Newsletter Chair</b>	<p><b>Jim Costello</b>  <b>Thatcher Fire Department</b>                      568 S. 1st Avenue                      Thatcher, Arizona 85552                      Phone: 928-322-2885                      Email: jimcostello@cableone.net</p>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	<p><b>Charles A. Vega</b>  <b>Hayden Fire Department</b>                      PO Box 392                      Hayden, AZ 85135                      Cell Phone: 480-208-1901                      Home Phone: 520-907-4098                      Email: hfd203@gmail.com or chalevega@hotmail.com</p>	<b>National Volunteer Fire Council Director</b>	<p><b>Robert Hooker</b>  <b>Bullhead City Fire Department (Retired)</b>                      249 W. Redwing Canyon Road                      Kingman, Arizona 86409                      Home Phone: 928-681-3875                      Mobile Phone: 520-995-2293                      AFFA Office: 520-235-7443                      Email: bob.hooker@yahoo.com                      bobhooker@vffaz.org</p>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<p><b>Larry Kerrigan</b>  <b>Thatcher Volunteer Fire Department</b>                      PO Box 774                      Thatcher, Arizona 85552                      Home Phone: 928-428-2729                      Cell Phone: 928-965-2535                      Email: krgnclan@cableone.net</p>	<b>Alternate Director</b>	<p><b>Ted Smith</b>  <b>Holbrook Volunteer Fire Department</b>                      800 Dorinda Drive                      PO Box 416 (mailing address)                      Holbrook, Arizona 86025                      Home Phone: 928-524-6579                      Work Phone: 928-241-1503                      Email: twsmith@citiilink.net</p>
<b>1-Year Board Member</b>	<p><b>Carlos Z. Garcia</b>  <b>Hayden Fire Department</b>                      PO Box 371                      Hayden, Arizona 85235                      Phone: 520-356-6158                      Email: garciac@hwusd.k12.az.us</p>	<b>State Training Committee Representative</b>	<p><b>BK Merriman</b>                      1761 S. Robinson Ranch Road                      Thatcher, Arizona 85552                      Cell Phone: 928-651-1122                      Email: bkpolly@yahoo.com</p>
<b>1-Year Board Member</b>	<p><b>Thomas Snodderley</b>  <b>Thatcher Fire Department</b>                      963 S. 4th Ave.                      Thatcher, Arizona 85552                      Phone: 928-651-4032                      Email: tsnodderley@gmail.com</p>	<b>Scholarship Committee Chairman</b>	<p><b>Ed Lopez</b>  <b>South Tucson Fire Department (Retired)</b>                      385 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street                      Tucson, Arizona 85713                      Home Phone: 520-730-7679                      Fax: 520-624-1660                      Email: sngembroidery@aol.com</p>
<b>2-Year Board Member</b>	<p><b>Patrick Anderson</b>  <b>Safford Volunteer Fire Department</b>                      1223 5th Avenue                      Safford, AZ 85546                      Phone: 928-322-1001</p>		
<b>2-Year Board Member</b>	<p><b>Jerry Lopez</b>                      PO Box 116                      Hayden, AZ 85135                      Phone: 520-975-7459                      Email: enrique.lopez131@gmail.com</p>		



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Quarterly Meeting

Holbrook Fire Department  
Holbrook, AZ  
March 26, 27 2011

### Quarterly Meeting

Ft. Thomas Fire Department  
Ft. Thomas, AZ  
June 4, 2011

### Annual Conference

Ft. Thomas & Pima Fire Departments  
Ft. Thomas, AZ/ Pima, AZ  
October 21-22, 2011

## VFFA CHALLENGE COIN - "LIMITED EDITION"

Show your pride of membership with this 1<sup>st</sup> Edition VFFA Challenge Coin. This will be a "limited edition" item, with only a limited number of coins being produced. Take advantage of this special opportunity to own this 1<sup>st</sup> Edition VFFA Challenge Coin. Don't delay, order yours today, these coins will go quickly.

### VFFA CHALLENGE COIN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



FRONT



BACK

Make check payable to Volunteer Firefighters of Arizona and mail to:  
Volunteer Firefighters of Arizona  
Larry Kerrigan, Secretary/Treasurer  
P.O. Box 774  
Thatcher, AZ 85552

Qty.		Each	Total
	X	\$10.00	

## "IN MEMORY OF BOB WEBER" DECALS AVAILABLE



2" X 2" \$3.00

4" X 4" \$5.00

Memorial Service CD available for \$5.00

All monies will go to Arizona Fire School  
Scholarship Fund in memory of Bob.

Contact Joyce Weber

Email: jandrweber@aol.com

Phone: 623-580-0946



**Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona  
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
Hayden Senior Citizens Building  
Jan 8, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by President Apodaca at 10:08 hrs.

Larry Kerrigan led the pledge of allegiance and Chris Murphy offered the invocation.

Roll Call: Officers – President Bobby Apodaca, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President B. K. Merriman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Charles Vega, Sec/Treas Larry Kerrigan ,1 Yr Board Members Carlos Garcia, Tommy Snodderly, 2 Yr Board Members Patrick Anderson (Absent), Jerry Lopez, Past President Chris Murphy.

Departments Present– Safford, Thatcher, Winkelman, Hayden, South Tucson, Ft Thomas, Pima, Kearny, Miami, Dudleyville, Mammoth, Regional Fire & Rescue.

Motion by Chris Murphy to accept min. Seconded by Charles Vega motion passed.

Treasurer's report – Morgan Stanley	\$66,360.97
Chase Account	<u>\$12,011.72</u>
Total	\$78,372.69

Motioned by Chris Murphy and seconded by Charles Vega to accept the treasures report.  
Motion passed.

Communications: None

Newsletter-Jim Costello not present, sent email to Tommy Snodderly reminding everyone to get their stuff into him on time.

Website- Chris Murphy will be working with the Redding group to make changes that will enhance it and the Redding group will embed video that we can run on our website.

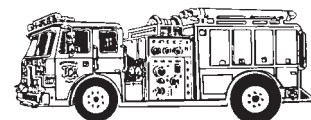
Scholarship-Charles Vega presented proposed changes during our last meeting. Opened discussion on the changes proposed. Charles will email the proposal to Chris Murphy to clean it up and he will email the rest of the board the document. Ed Lopez stated some people are saying they did not get certificates for the classes they took at Fire School, he has been trying to contact Molina with out any results, can't get in touch with her. Discussion followed that people who are applying for scholarships must attend one meeting per year in order to be eligible for the scholarship. They will have 2 opportunities in March at Holbrook and early June at Ft. Thomas.

Training Committee-.B.K. Stated that the amount that the State Training Committee will give for their scholarships is going up to \$500.00 per recipients.

Motion by Chris Murphy and Seconded by Ed Lopez to bump our scholarship award to \$500.00 Motion Passed.

B.K. Stated that the Fire School was a success the school paid for itself this year. Our 2 classes went well, the class Safe and Effective Fire Training class was billed \$1320.00 for cost above what was taken in by students. The instructor for this class has been approached to join the State Fire Training Committee, if he is put on the Committee he will not be able teach our class. He has someone who could teach the class but is located outside of Arizona, which will increase the cost of putting on the class. Starting next year we have asked that all classes at fire school have a written curriculum for their classes so anyone could come in and teach it. Question asked if Ron Deadman would share his program to someone in the state to allow someone local to do the training. B.K. Said that Ron would share his training but all he asks is that who uses it not register it, he had that problem in the past. We may be asked to sign something to that effect. If we need to find a new instructor we will have till the end of May Fire School was down 235 people this year.

Committee is looking at paying back the loans they receive very soon, we may know something this Thursday.



Fire School is scheduled for Sept 7-11<sup>th</sup> in Mesa. This is the last year under contract at the Mesa site, we will just have to wait and see. Mesa stepped up this year with the street fair and activities, they are hoping to make this year better and bigger.

By Laws-Discussion on changing the by-laws to help our organization grow. How to spread the leadership throughout the organization. This would make people feel more welcome in the organization. The specific area looking at changing is the voting process for officers need to look at the most qualified not a popularity contest. Discussion centered around each department having one vote. Right now the organization is perceived as the southeastern Arizona organization.

Other organizations such as the training committee have 4 meetings a year you are required to attend 3 if not you are voted off and you loose your representation on this committee.

Ted Smith stated that we need to have this completed by 60 days before conference to be voted on at the conference.

McCoy Hawkins stated that we need to have the changes by March meeting in order to discuss it at the next meeting in Holbrook.

AFSI- Ted Smith-Will have a meeting on Wednesday, AFSI very happy with how smooth the transition is going with certificates for Fire School classes and training throughout the state. About 200 certificates have been printed so far.

NVFC-Ted Smith attended meeting in Minn. He is on the Volunteer Advocacy Committee. Ted stated that with budget cuts and such you are starting to hear the word volunteer much more. Bob Hooker handed out the legislative overview. Bob said that he got a call from Duracell asking for a Volunteer department in the valley Bob contacted Wickenburg fire department and put them in contact with Duracell and they will be filming a commercial on the 25 or 26<sup>th</sup> of this month with Wickenburg.

Promotion and Recruitment-Carlos Garcia stated that he contacted area fire departments to invite them to the quarterly meeting, Mammoth, Miami, and Dudleyville. Carlos stated that the Safer Grant will assist with Recruitment.

Old Business-Challenge coins we still have a lot of them for sale.

What are we doing about Telemarketing right now we are waiting on the Federal Government 501-4C status letter before we can proceed with any fund raising activities.

New Business-McCoy Hawkins asked what the committee would like to have for training at the conference, someone suggested extrication class. McCoy said the games would be on Saturday.

Next board meeting is March 26 and 27 in Holbrook. Dinner will be at 6:30 at Fire Station 3. Mention the VFFA and get a discounted rate on the Days Inn motel.

Good of the Order- BK asked Bobby if he was going to appoint a committee for the Safer Grant. Bobby will call people who he wants to be on the committee.

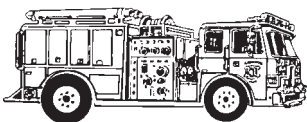
Hayden picked up the tab for the food at the Quarterly meeting. Bobby thanked them and the cook.

Steven Kerber talked about a new bill introduce before the legislators went out of session. It is house bill 2003, this bill does not allow a Fire Department to charge back to the people's insurance company for assistance on scenes of accidents.

Motion by Ted Smith and seconded by Bill Norton to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Kerrigan



## Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona Constitution and By-Laws

### Article I – Name of Organization

Section 1 This association shall be known as the “Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona” – VFFA. The Organization may still be referred to as the “Associated Fire Fighters of Arizona”. The Organization may also be referred to as Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona (formerly Associated Fire Fighters of Arizona).

### Article II – Scope and Purpose

Section 1 A. This Association is formed for the purpose of preserving the well-being of Volunteer Fire, Volunteer EMS, and Volunteer Rescue service personnel and advancing the art and knowledge of emergency service delivery.  
 B. This Association shall promote the camaraderie, rapport, social interaction, and education of its members and families.  
 C. This Association will bring the issues and concerns of the Volunteer Fire, Volunteer EMS, and Volunteer Rescue service to the general public and government officials.

### Article III – Membership

Section 1 Active membership shall consist of the members and retired members of any active public, private fire department, fire district, fire brigade, EMS, and Rescue in the State of Arizona and the Northern States of Mexico. Employees of the State Fire Marshal's Office are also eligible for active membership.

Section 2 A. Past President shall become life members of the Association.  
 B. Life membership may also be presented to any other member of this Association for long and faithful service, and shall be conferred by a majority vote of the delegates at the annual conference. Life members shall have the privileges of active membership.

Section 3 Associate membership shall consist of any other individuals interested in supporting the purposes of the Association. Associate members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Association except the right to vote.

Section 4 Any individual may be presented with an honorary membership in this Association by a majority vote of the delegates at the annual conference.

Section 5 Eligible individuals, regardless of heritage or sex, shall be accepted for membership in this Association.

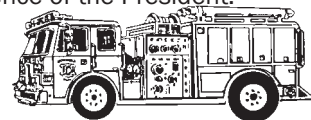
### Article IV – Executive Board

Section 1 The Executive Board of this Association shall consist of elected active members: And shall not exceed 2 members from 1 department, excluding secretary. Unless over ridden by 2/3 vote of delegates at large in attendance.  
 (1) President  
 (2) First Vice President  
 (3) Second Vice President  
 (4) Secretary-Treasurer  
 (5) Board members – Four (4) in number  
 (6) Immediate Past President

Section 2 A. The election of the executive board shall be held annually at the regular conference. Nominations shall be conducted daily during the conference and shall be left open until the election on the final day. The election shall be by secret ballot. Elected officers shall hold office for (1) year or until their successors have been elected and installed. Two (2) of the four (4) board members shall be elected each year for a two (2) year term.

#### Section 3 Duties of the Executive Board

A. President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and at all special meetings, call special meetings when requested to do so by ten percent (10%) of the department membership, be ex officio member of all committees, sign all orders upon Association Treasury for payment of money and perform all other duties incidental to his office.  
 B. First Vice President: The First Vice President shall be responsible for the formation of the activities of the standing committees and shall report on their activities at all other meetings. The First Vice President shall also be responsible for the By-Laws of the Association, to include acting as the Association Parliamentarian. It shall be the duty of the First Vice President to perform all of the duties of the President in the absence of the President.



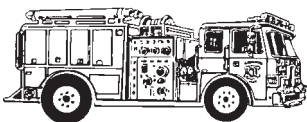
- C. Second Vice President: The Second Vice President shall be the liaison for the meetings and conferences of the Association and shall be responsible for the conduct of the inter-department contests at the annual conference. It shall also be the duty of the Second Vice President to perform the duties of the First Vice President in his absence.
- D. Secretary-Treasurer: The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Association and Executive Board. He shall mail out requests and delinquency notices for membership. He shall keep a record of all membership dues and fees. He shall collect all money owed to the Association, keeping a strict and correct amount of same, and shall deposit said collections in a member FDIC bank under the name of the Association. He shall pay all bills per guidelines of the Association. All checks shall be signed by him and counter signed by the President. He shall answer all communications pertaining to the Association and all communications to the Association shall be sent to him. His compensation shall be recommended by the Executive Board and voted on at the annual conference. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be provided with a petty cash fund which he may use, at his discretion, to defray small Association expenses that may arise in the course of his duties as Secretary-Treasurer. He shall keep an accurate and proper receipt record of all expenditures from this fund and account for all expenditures to the Executive Board at their meetings. The amount of the petty cash fund shall not exceed \$200, but may be changed by vote of the Executive Board.
- E. Board members: In addition to the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer, there shall be four (4) additional Board members elected at large. Each of the four (4) Board members shall be assigned by the President to a standing committee in addition to the representation at large. The Board members shall assist the President and Secretary-Treasurer in business of the Association. It shall also be the duty of the Board members to audit and allow all bills and order checks to be drawn by the Secretary-Treasurer for the legitimate expense of the Association during the intervention between meetings.
- F. Five (5) or more members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Executive Board may and shall meet at any time and place as may be agreed to by a majority of the Board. Notice of meetings shall be at least three (3) days in advance.
- G. The Executive Board shall fill any vacancy that may occur in the office until the next annual conference by appointing an active member in good standing to fill the vacancy.
- H. If an Executive Board member cannot attend an Executive Board meeting, that member may appoint, in writing to the President, a substitute from his own department to fill his place at that one meeting.

## Article V – Delegates

- Section 1 Each department, district, or brigade represented by active membership registration, shall elect 1 delegate. Whenever a delegate is elected to an Executive Board Position in the Association, an alternate shall automatically become a regular delegate replacing him.
- Section 2 A. Each Dept. will have 1 delegate on the board. In the event a fire district is governed by a Board of Commissioners, then that fire jurisdiction shall be treated as one department and Delegate voting shall be as follows: If 100% of the Board of Fire Commissioners in any jurisdiction are active members of the Association, then the Board of Fire Commissioners are entitled to one (1) Delegate.
- B. Each delegate is expected to serve until their department feels the need to change delegates and must be approved by board. Delegates must attend 3 out of 4 quarterly meetings per year. Failure to do so may result in department losing delegate spot on board until annual conference and a new delegate is approved by the board.
- C. Delegates are on a volunteer status and will not be reimbursed for travel or lodging expenses for quarterly meetings.
- Section 3 Each duly elected Delegate of a fire department shall be entitled to one (1) vote.
- Section 4 All elected officers shall be considered Delegates-at-large and entitled to one (1) vote each.

## Article VI – Committees

- Section 1 The Association's standing in committees shall consist of:
- (1) Legislative
  - (2) Newsletter
  - (3) Membership
  - (4) Education/Training
  - (5) WEB Site
  - (6) Scholarship
  - (7) By-Laws



Article VII – Dues

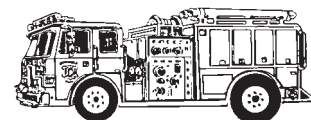
- Section 1
  - A. The annual membership dues shall be ten dollars (\$10) per member and are due by July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - B. Annual dues shall be waived for life members.
  - C. The fiscal year of the Association shall be from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  
- Section 2
  - A. The annual dues shall be considered delinquent August 1<sup>st</sup>. If dues are not paid for current fiscal year, you will have no vote at the quarterly meetings until dues are paid in full.
  - B. Paid members shall be furnished a membership card.
  - C. Billing will be sent by June 1<sup>st</sup> and a final bill will be sent by July 1<sup>st</sup>. No member shall be suspended or stricken from the rolls for non-payment of dues until August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Article VIII – Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws

- Section 1 The Association shall have the power at any time to alter, amend, or revise the Constitution and By-Laws, but the same shall not be ordered, amended, or revised except by a vote of three-fourths of the delegates present and voting at the regular annual conference.
  
- Section 2 Any request of Constitution and By-Laws changes must be submitted in writing to the First Vice President at least sixty (60) days prior to conference, and each member department shall be provided with notice of the proposed changes thirty (30) days prior to conference.
  
- Section 3 The Newsletter and or Web Site may be a legitimate means of notification of Constitution and By-Laws changes.

Article IX – Meetings of the Association

- Section 1 The selection of the next annual conference city shall be made prior to the conclusion of the conference, based on proposals by cities and towns offering to host an annual conference, by a majority of votes cast by members present. If no proposals are presented, the Executive Board shall make a selection at a subsequent board meeting.
  
- Section 2 The dates of the annual conference shall be set by the selected conference city.
  
- Section 3 The city entertaining the Association shall hire and furnish a stenographer to take verbatim notes of the proceedings of the business sessions of the conference. Said stenographer shall be paid by the Association. The stenographer shall furnish the Secretary/Treasurer with two (2) copies of the proceedings within ten (10) days after the close of the conference.
  
- Section 4 A portion of each conference shall be set aside for the purpose of bringing education and training to its members.
  
- Section 5 Failure to hold an annual conference at designated times or place shall in no way work dissolution of the Association. In the absence of an annual conference, a quarterly board meeting will be held.
  
- Section 6 Actual fee registration shall be set by meeting of the conference city and Executive Board no less than ninety (90) days prior to the conference date.
  
- Section 7 It shall be the duty of the board members of the Association to help the conference city to formulate the conference.
  
- Section 8 All meetings of the Executive Board shall be called by the President of the Organization and the Organization may defray all mileage expenses per the current Arizona State or IRS standard mileage rate, whichever is greater, for round trips. The Organization may also defray for lodging and per-diem for approved functions, if necessary, at an Executive Board approved rate.
  
- Section 9 At least three (3) times per year between conferences, there shall be an Executive Board meeting to conduct the business of the Association.



Section 10 At the conference, a color code name tag system shall be used to denote Executive Board members, Delegates, Alternates, Past Presidents, and Life Members. The following color codes shall be adhered to: Board members – Green; Past Presidents and Life Members – Blue; Delegates – Red; Alternates – Yellow; and all others – White.

#### Article X – Order of Business

Section 1 Roberts' Rules of Order shall prevail during all meetings of the conference.

- Section 2
- (1) Roll Call (Executive Board, Member Departments, Past Presidents, and Life Members)
  - (2) Reading of Minutes
  - (3) Reports of Committees
  - (4) Treasurer's Report
  - (5) Communications
  - (6) Unfinished Business
  - (7) New Business
  - (8) Good of the Order
  - (9) Election of Officers
  - (10) Selection of Conference Site
  - (11) Installation of Officers
  - (12) Adjournment

---

## **VFFA Scholarship Application Requirements**

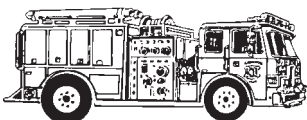
- Applicant must be a member of a V.F.F.A. constituent department, fire brigade, or fire district.
- A member of the benefiting department must attend at least one meeting in a fiscal year prior to receiving the scholarship.
- Scholarship recipient or department must send a copy of their certificate of completion to V.F.F.A. within 30 days of completion of course. (Failure to do so may result in a forfeit of the scholarship and potential future department scholarship forfeiture.)
- Applications must be received by June 1<sup>st</sup> of every year.

### **Criteria for choosing scholarship recipients is based on the following:**

- Fire department, brigade, or district training budget.
- Do applicant and or applying fire department, brigade, or district comply with requirements listed under Application Requirements?
- V.F.F.A. activity

V.F.F.A is responsible for sending a confirmation or denial to scholarship pursuing department.

Contact will be made in one or more of the following forms: an email, and or a phone call.



## Lightweight construction: Hazards you should know

By Jason Poremba

As the building industry evolves, it's constantly developing ways to create building materials and methods that can allow construction to be done in the most efficient way possible. Building professionals and engineers are working to decrease the time involved in not only the production but the installation, too.

Cost is clearly the driving force in these decisions — and a physical example of this evolution has been the introduction of lightweight construction. It's brought serious ramifications to the fire service and how we work on the fireground.

The NFPA states that, "Although these materials reduce construction costs and have consistently demonstrated equivalent or even superior quality under non-fire conditions, the same cannot be said when these materials are exposed to fire loading during a residential structure fire. The result is progressive structural collapse due to the failure of these lightweight structures, resulting in firefighter injuries and death."

This article will highlight some of the dangers of lightweight construction, offer some size-up recommendations and provide some video examples of fire in such structures.

Over the past few years, you may have noticed an increase in reports of firefighter close calls and fatalities related to lightweight construction, which has hopefully created better awareness of the issue within the fire service. It has forced departments to evolve further to differentiate between conventional framing and those using lightweight pre-engineered materials.

The introduction of lightweight construction materials should have changed the way you operate on the fireground. A series of tests done by the UL offered some glaring results. The failure time of a non protected 2x10 framing member was 18 minutes and 30 seconds after ignition time, and the equivalent member in a "TJI" failed in 6 minutes and 30 seconds.

But the goal of this article is not to overwhelm you with scientific facts, codes and potential resolutions. The real point here is creating awareness; if you have not altered your approach and attack on these types of fires, you need to adjust immediately.

How can you protect you and your fellow firefighters? It is fairly easy. Firefighters need to develop a culture of continual and evolving size-up. We have heard it a million times; "Size-up starts when the tones go out." But for me, size-up starts when you wake up in the morning. Size-up will also need to evolve over time to allow for changes in the fire industry, the construction industry, and changes in your own response area.

Size-up for today is only as good as today. We need to educate our firefighters to be able to rapidly identify various types of construction, and the methods and materials utilized. Consider developing a system to notify responding firefighters of potential construction hazards.

Certain communities have already developed a hazmat-like placard system that allows responding firefighters to determine the type of construction upon arrival. The signage design and location would be in a predetermined location enforced by the local building and code officials.

Firefighters should be trained in not only the construction types and methods, but also to understand the differences in fire behavior as a result of different construction methods. Building construction will determine the number of firefighters, apparatus and equipment needed to control fire, proper location of attack and vent, and whether the attack should be an offensive or defensive one.

Leadership must clearly understand fire progression and constantly assess the time the fire has been involved. There may be certain fires that may be an exterior attack on arrival just as a result of the amount of time the run was dispatched and the amount of time it took to respond.

The fire from the exterior may be visually "attackable," but the floor structure may not allow for an interior attack. Six minutes is a very small window to operate under. Use a defensive strategy whenever trusses have been compromised or exposed to fire, and remember basic risk reward concepts.

Conduct search and suppression drills that emphasize tool use. Firefighters must continually move with a tool to feel ahead of themselves. Using a tool will allow the firefighter to sound out the floor to get a sense of structural integrity. The tool can also be used to sweep ahead of them to feel for already collapsed or compromised areas of flooring.

NIOSH provides the following recommendations to firefighters based on previous fatality-related incidents:

- Use extreme caution when operating on or under truss systems.
- Notify the incident commander whenever truss construction is discovered.
- Communicate interior conditions to the incident commander as soon as possible and provide regular updates.
- Use a defensive fire-fighting strategy once burning of truss members is identified (unless someone is trapped).
- Expect imminent collapse once lightweight truss roofs or floors are involved in a fire (Klaene and Sanders 2000).
- If possible, avoid cutting the truss chords when cutting holes for roof ventilation. Cuts can weaken the roof.
- Avoid roof areas loaded by air conditioning units, air handlers, and other heavy objects.
- Be aware of alternative exit routes at all times when working above or below a truss.
- Consider using roof ladders or working from aerial ladders or platforms instead of walking or standing directly on the roof (Brannigan 1999; Dunn 1998).



## 5 Ways To Be a Better Firefighter

By bearing these areas in mind, you can help to improve both your fire suppression efforts and your safety on the fire ground.

By Michael Lee

For me, there are some simple ideas and concepts that can make a firefighter exceptional versus middle of the road. These concepts not only apply at the firefighter level, but to all ranks within the fire service. By bearing them in mind, you can help to improve both your fire suppression efforts and your safety on the fire ground.

Know your district

Preplanning is a concept that goes beyond knowing basic hazards of your district occupancies. Be familiar with everything about them, such as:

- Their construction
- Their placement amidst their surrounding structures
- What exposures are present on all four sides of the building?
- What security and fire protection systems do they have installed?
- What obstacles may slow your ability to force entry?
- Are people on site after regular business hours?
- Does a church also serve as a rescue mission after hours for the homeless?
- What problems have you had recently in these structures?
- What type of clientele spends time in them and could they present safety hazards to your personnel?

Pay attention to the stories the senior firefighters tell around the kitchen table regarding those buildings you may have to fight fire in. They may tell of difficulties they faced there in the past and you can learn these tough lessons without having to figure it out for yourself. Know your first-due district as if you lived there, because you do for a third of your life!

Be proactive

Problems faced during your career can be approached in a number of directions. You can ignore them and hope they go away, you can tell someone else in the hope they will solve the problem, or you can jump in and be part of the solution. Dwindling budgets have created an environment where it is difficult to merely throw money at a problem to solve it. Take the time to look at a problem from all sides and be a part of the system that attempts to solve it. Not only will this enable you to learn more about the equipment or process that needs attention, you also learn more about the way to utilize your department's process for problem solving. If your department needs something that it does not have, take the time to do your homework and find an affordable or acceptable solution to existing problems. Knowing how to get what you need now will help your department get what it wants in the future.

Train, train, train

I can't say enough about how critical it is for a team to train together to ensure all individuals know their place and role on the team they are part of.

- How often does your crew pull attack lines just to re-establish the muscle memory required when you will really need it?
- Does your team practice like they play?
- Do all team members utilize current SOPs during training so that when they really have to initiate a Mayday or be part of an RIT team, they know the process inside and out?
- Is every member of the team practiced and capable with every piece of equipment of the apparatus?
- Is every member of the team trained to operate as a team leader in case the company officer goes down?
- Does the team depend on every member to have some level of knowledge regarding every possible call type they may have to respond to?
- Are your acting engineers, officers, etc., as capable as those who are in the positions regularly?

Don't make safety an afterthought

There is a current rumbling going through the brotherhood that the safety pendulum has swung to the conservative end of the spectrum; that we are taking safety far too seriously and that it takes up too much time. This is a dangerous path to tread and leaves an individual in a position of making singular decisions about what safety measures should be taken and what should be ignored. While I agree that our job at times requires us to risk ourselves to save others, we should never approach a risky decision in a cavalier fashion. If we are forced to place ourselves at risk, we should be utilizing every piece of equipment, every safety concept and every manner available to reducing the risk as much as possible. If you simply walk into situations thinking nothing can happen to you or your crew, you are a fool and a hazard to the team you represent. Train so you know how to be safe, train to be able to get out of hazardous situations and train to get civilians out as rapidly and safely as possible. In addition, train so you know when a situation is a downright loser. When a room and contents fire is completely involved, you must ask the hard question: "Could an individual survive that environment without the type of gear I use?" If not, consider making a calculated approach for suppression, not an aggressive rescue evolution! You have a lifetime of fighting fire to survive – don't become complacent!

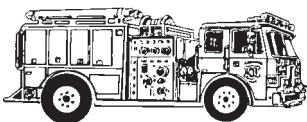
Fit is fine

I can't stress enough how important it is for a firefighter to be in good shape. We see consistently high numbers of firefighters who die in the line of duty from cardiovascular events every year. We know what the problem is most of the time, yet we fail to act. NFPA 1500 pushed the fire service forward by making fitness a necessity for our survival. Yet I still see brothers who do not take the opportunity to be fit and miss out on their best method to ensure they can survive to enjoy their retirement. Recent literature is showing that long-term aerobic activity may not be sufficient, and that high intensity training is the prescription to ensuring our brothers and sisters obtain and maintain elite levels of fitness. I have recently seen the light and while in good shape, have moved forward to higher intensity training to get into great shape to be sure my body can continue to take what every physical insult I may receive until I can retire. Take the time to find what process will not just help keep weight down, but that will enable you to keep doing the job well in the years to come.

*About the author*

Michael Lee has 25 years experience in pre-hospital paramedic experience and about 20 years experience in the fire service. He started as a FF/Paramedic and worked up through the ranks, including training officer, to his current position as battalion chief at Cunningham Fire Dept in Colorado. He is currently filling the role of safety officer for FEMA USAR Colorado Task Force One and has military service in the U.S. Navy. To contact Michael, email [Michael.Lee@FireRescue1.com](mailto:Michael.Lee@FireRescue1.com).

[www.vffaz.org](http://www.vffaz.org)



# Who do you contact when your department has a line-of-duty death?

All too often we are reading in the newspapers or magazine articles or hearing on the news stations that a fire fighter has been killed in the Line of Duty. We all can agree that we hope this kind of tragedy will never happen in our department, but what if it did? Are you prepared? The AFFA would like to provide you with some information that may be of help if your department has a line-of-duty death. Among the many notifications that need to be made surrounding a death, several local, state and federal agencies will also need to be notified. The following is a list of agencies with some phone numbers that your department liaison will need to contact.

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
State Fire Marshal's Office	602-364-1003
NIOSH	800-356-4674
OSHA (within 8 hours)	602-542-5795
Public Safety Officers Benefits Program	888-744-6513
State Workers' Compensation Board (within 48 hours)	602-631-2000
National Fire Academy	301-447-1000
National Volunteer Fire Council (volunteer only)	888-275-6832
U.S. Fire Administration	800-561-3356 (ext. 1836)
100 Club of Arizona	602-485-0100
Volunteer Fire Fighter of Arizona	520-235-0189
	520-235-7443

## Fire Fighter Memorial Funeral Kits

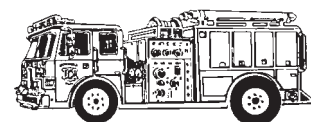
The Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona has over the years been able to provide memorial/funeral kits for fallen fire fighters. There are several funeral kits available around the entire state of Arizona.

These kits include:

- Black bunting for draping a fire engine  
(2 side drapes and 2 front drapes)
- 60 elastic Badge Ribbons (black)
- 6 pair white gloves
- Booklet of guidelines for dealing with a death and the funeral procedures

Should the need arise please feel free to contact us via email at [affa@affaz.org](mailto:affa@affaz.org) or call 520-235-0189 or 520-235-7443.

We offer our sincere condolences in your loss.





# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Department Name \_\_\_\_\_

City, Town or District \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Chief \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

### Number of Department Members

Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Part Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Career \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Number joining VFFA \_\_\_\_\_ (please submit roster of those joining)

\$10.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed  
(Number joining) (Make checks payable to Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona)

Volunteer Fire Fighters of Arizona  
Larry Kerrigan, Secretary/Treasurer  
P.O. Box 774  
Thatcher, AZ 85552  
Home Phone: 928-428-2729  
Cell Phone: 928-965-2535  
Email: krgnclan@cableone.net

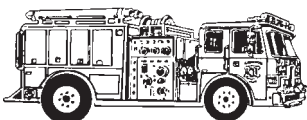
### Roster

(include additional sheets if necessary)

Name

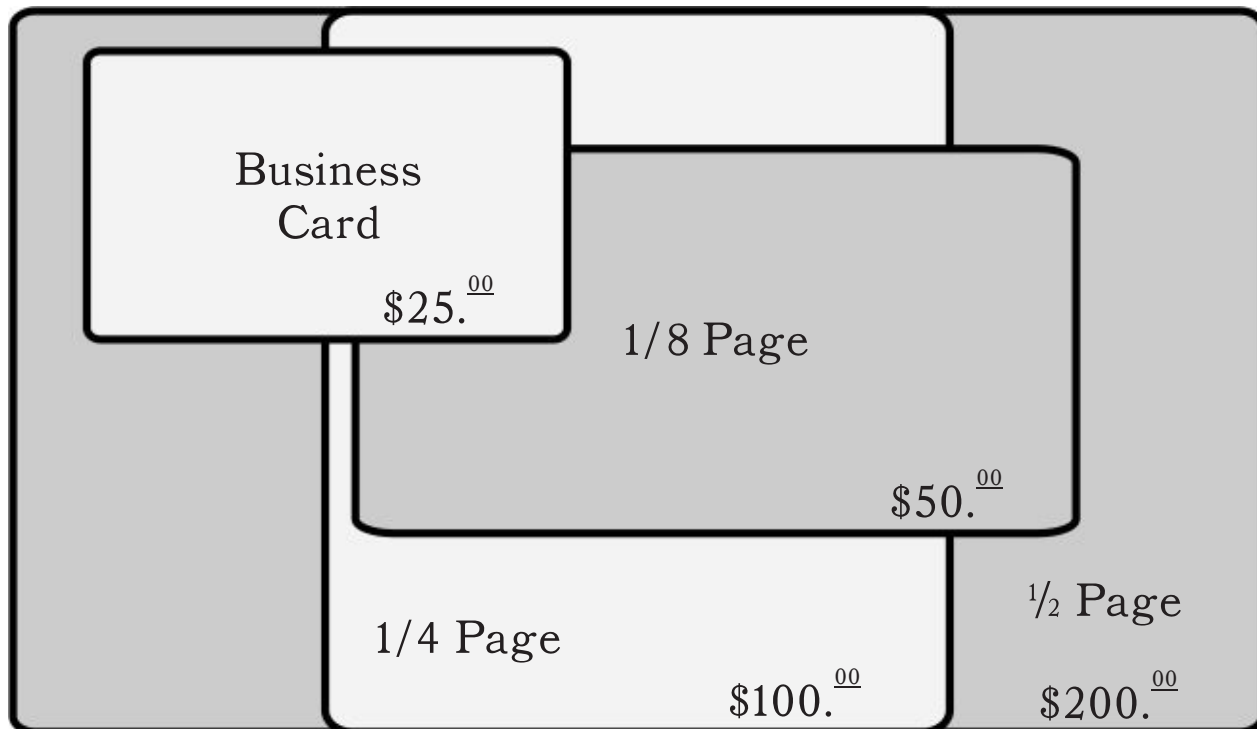
Address

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_



# ADVERTISE WITH US

*Read by over 1,000 Fire Fighters*



To advertise or change address  
contact Jim Costello

Phone: (928) 322-2885

Email: jimcostello@cableone.net

Address: 568 S. 1st Avenue  
Thatcher, AZ 85552

