

MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

Weekly Report 4/19//24

LEGISLATIVE CALL TO ACTION: Please be advised that the MSFA Legislative Committee is announcing a call to action for HB 404. This bill **MUST NOT** be allowed to be signed into law. This bill would negatively impact Fire and EMS and their response to “check the welfare” calls. Although many counties have submitted letters of OPPOSTION, the bill still passed to be signed by the Governor. Our voices **MUST** be heard on this bill and we ask that ALL counties submit a form letter of opposition.

Please see the attached document and copy/paste the form letter to your department or county letterhead and forward back to Legislative Chairman Chief Bob Phillips rfcchief48@gmail.com ASAP.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK STARTS THIS SUNDAY! - April 21-27, 2024

Official Press Release - Subject: Maryland Statewide Recruitment & Retention Social Media Campaign
On behalf of the Maryland State Firemen's Association Recruitment and Retention Committee
Media Contact: Jonathan Dayton, Chairperson

The MSFA Recruitment and Retention Committee is excited to announce that this year, we have developed a social media toolkit (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ih-Ypu4NsnzKI-7OzK-biwtoiKoVIFaJ?usp=sharing>) for National Volunteer Week that we encourage all departments to take advantage of. Additionally, while we haven't set an official date in past years for recruitment open houses, we encourage departments wanting to put forth recruitment efforts to hold open houses throughout the week.

NEXT SUNDAY! REMINDER TO REGISTER: 2024 MSFA/LAMSFA Cancer Support Walk of Hope:

Sunday, April 28, 2024. This year's walk will begin at 4pm (registration at 3pm) for an “Evening Stroll Through Annapolis”, ending at Stan and Joe's Restaurant. The After-Walk fundraising event at the restaurant will be held in support of the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation. Register to walk/be an event sponsor here: <https://www.msfa.org/2024-msfala-cancer-support-walk/>

SAFER Marketing Grant Program Round 2 Extended to APRIL 30: The MSFA is excited to announce Round 2 of the SAFER Marketing Grant Program. This program is designed to help member departments increase community awareness through items designed for recruitment events. In the second phase of this program, which will run from **March 1st through April 30th**, \$1200.00 will be allocated for another 65 departments for event materials. ***We have 50 departments already signed up already so don't wait!***

Each kit includes: One Full Color 10x10 Tent with Logo and Department Name; One Table Cover with Logo and Department Name; Backwall with logo and Department Name (customizable). There will be an opportunity to add additional items to spend the entire \$1200.00

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

****To apply, please send the following info to kloveless@msfa.org no later than April 30th:**

-Name, Address, and Phone Number of Department -Contact information for person applying -Any information that needs to be updated on the department's MarylandVolunteer.org profile, especially the recruitment contact info (if applicable) -If you do not have a department profile on the MarylandVolunteer.org website, one can be created here: <https://www.firstarriving.com/maryland/>

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

Recruiter Training Announcement: *Please note location change for May 18-19

The MSFA R&R Team is excited to present regional offerings of the MissionCIT Retention and Recruitment Officer Course!

May 18-19	Northeastern MD	MFRI North East
September 14-15	Upper Eastern Shore	MFRI Centreville
October 19-20	Lower Eastern Shore	MFRI Princess Anne
October 26-27	Northern MD	Frederick County Public Safety Training Facility
November 2-3	Mid-State	MFRI College Park

-This SAFER-funded two-day workshop takes a retention-first approach to help participants evaluate the type of environment they're inviting potential members into and offers keen insight and process improvement from the moment of inquiry, to application and acceptance, and through the onboarding phase. -NOTE: **To ensure a personalized experience, the course will be open to a limit of 24 attendees per region (and limited to two people per department) so be sure to register early!** This course is for those that are active in their department's retention and recruitment efforts.

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

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

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

First Responder Center for Excellence Survey: If you are a firefighter between the ages of 18-65, please take this survey on firefighter behaviors and viewpoints. "The Firefighter Behaviors and Viewpoints Survey is an ambitious effort to measure success of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives that resulted from discussions begun 20 years ago at the Firefighter Life Safety Summit in Tampa FL."



NERIS Data Framework and Development Update: May 2nd, 2024; 1200 - 1300 hrs.

This webinar will share the latest NERIS developments and explore how the USFA is moving towards a modernized approach in managing emergency response data and analytics across the nation.

Through this virtual session, we'll cover key updates and advancements on the NERIS project, and you'll have an opportunity to: Learn about the latest progress and next steps for NERIS - Explore the newly launched beta version of the Core Data Schemas - Hear first-hand insights from Fire Chiefs testing the prototype version - Engage directly with the NERIS team in a Q&A segment

Register here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/fb4dc5b4-0aa4-483a-8a1b-772f343cc457/summary>

Featured Speakers

- Dr. Lori Moore-Merrell, U.S. Fire Administrator, USFA
- Dr. Steve Kerber, Vice President and Executive Director, FSRI
- Tom Jenkins, Research Manager, FSRI (Moderator)
- Don Lombardi, Chief, West Metro Fire and Rescue (CO)
- John Butler, Chief, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue (VA) and the President of the IAFC

The NFFF Memorial Service will be held Sunday, May 5th at the National Fallen Firefighter's Memorial in Emmitsburg, MD. Please keep the families of the fall in your prayers.

2024 Convention News:

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

-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 (Sat and Sun) registration will only be available on the MFRI website; <https://www.mfri.org/register/EMS-202-S038-2024/msfs>

-Deadline Notice: All Officer, Committee Chair Reports and all program book ad submissions are **NOW DUE** to the Program Book Committee

Ads can be purchased here: <https://convention.msfa.org/sponsors/advertising/>

Email reports to Ginny Wilhite at gwilhite231@aol.com

-Credentials: Reminder for all Departments to submit their credentials by June 1st.

-Exhibitor Registrations are filling up fast! Reserve today: <https://convention.msfa.org/registration/exhibitors/>

-The 2024 Program had been posted to the convention website under Shortcuts: <https://convention.msfa.org/>

-Award Nominations are still being accepted. **Please note that there are specific deadlines for some of the awards so be sure to nominate today.** Visit: <https://www.msfa.org/awards/> for more info.

There are also **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.

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

-The **Convention Events** page has been updated for 2024 and will include additional information on as we get closer to Convention. *Be sure to visit the website <https://convention.msfa.org/> often for the most up-to-date info!

Upcoming Training:

-April 27, 2024; Webinar: R&R Coffee Talk: 5 Tips for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Populations; 1400 hrs. Join Dr. Candice McDonald, Chief Joel Cerny, and special guest Paul Acosta as they discuss five tips for building a volunteer fire department that reflects the diversity of your community. Learn why diversity is important, how it strengthens our ability to respond effectively to emergencies, strategies for reaching out to and engaging diverse communities, and ways to ensure that your department is inclusive and welcoming to all. <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAldO-rrzgiEtNAIF7zDruBXhN-y6nxQP2I#/registration>

-May 4, 2024; Lithium Ion Battery Fires: First Responder Awareness; 10AM-1PM Ridgely Volunteer Fire Department 101 Sunset Blvd Ridgely MD 21660 Register: <https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/SEM/141/>

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

-May 20-21, 2024; Supervising Emergency Medical Services (SEMS) 0800-1700 MFRI Headquarters; College Park, MD Register here: www.mfri.org/register/NFA-230-S001-2024/seminars

-May 21, 2024; Mental Management & Mindful Movement for First Responders 1000-1330 Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore 301 Tilghman Rd. Suite 101, Salisbury, MD Register here: <https://bit.ly/MMMM-May244>

-May 22, 2024: Port and Shipboard Firefighting Seminar 0800-1600 Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), Maritime Conference Center 692 Maritime Blvd, Linthicum Heights, MD Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/register/SEM-142-S001-2024/seminars>

-June 8-9, 2024; Maryland Weekend at the National Fire Academy has been Rescheduled! Visit <https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/SEM/119/> to download the application. Must be mailed in by April 30

-June 15-16, 2024: National Women's Weekend Program at NFA National Emergency Training Center; Emmitsburg, Maryland <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/about/usfa-events/2024-06-15-womens-weekend/> Don't miss this chance to meet women firefighters from across the U.S. This program strengthens the fire service community by providing education, personal networking and a shared collegial experience.

-June 15-16, 2024; Maryland EMT Skills Refresher, 0800-1600; MSFA Convention and Conference; Ocean City, MD Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/register/EMS-202-S038-2024/msfs>

-June 17-18, 2024: MSFA Convention and Conference Training Seminars, Ocean City Convention Center <https://convention.msfa.org/calendar/category/education/list/>

-June 16-22, 2024; Safety Standdown 2024 Fire Training: Back to Basics; Online resources and planning
The 2024 Safety Stand Down will take place June 16-22 and emphasize the importance of a solid, foundational training program with the theme "Fire Training: Back to Basics." Five daily focus areas will highlight building the foundation of a training program, assessing the needs of the community and department, safety during training, physical and mental health considerations, and the 10 commandments of firefighter training. Use the online resources on this site to start planning your Safety Stand Down event. More resources and planning tools will be added over the coming months: www.safetystanddown.org

-June 26, 2024; 12-Lead ECG and STEMI Masterclass 0800-1200; MFRI Headquarters, College Park MD <https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/SEM/135/S001/2024/> **This course is also available on June 27, 2024.**

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

MSFA Committee Notices/Meeting Dates:

-The Scholarship Committee has announced that the Scholarship application period for 2024 is now open **through April 30, 2024**. There have been additional scholarship opportunities posted to the committee page so please visit <https://www.msfa.org/committees-2/scholarship/> for more information!

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

-The Incentives Committee will be holding a meeting for all LOSAP coordinators at the MSFA convention in Ocean City on Tuesday, June 18th after elections in Room 208.

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

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

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

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

MSFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BY COUNTY:

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