

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

Weekly Report 6/22/24

The MSFA Convention Committee would like to thank everyone that attended this year's Convention and Conference in Ocean City, making it a wonderful time for all! Many photos of our events have been shared to our Facebook page and all results and award winners have been posted to the MSFA website.

Congratulations to our newly elected 2024-2025 Officers:

President - W. Newton "Skip" Carey, Jr.

First Vice President - Charles J. Simpson, Jr.

Second Vice President - William Faust

Treasurer - Ron Siarnicki

Chief Chaplain - John F. Long Jr.

Trustee - Joel McCrea

MSFA Name Change Announcement and Official Letter from the President

Attached to this report you will find an official letter from President Carey regarding the passing of the proposed name change of the Maryland State Firemen's Association to the Maryland State Firefighters Association. As we transition to our new name, we ask that all committee chairs begin the process of updating their respective documents and forms to reflect the new name of the Association. These will be updated on the website as we receive them. Please forward any documents that need to be replaced to Richard Snader at rsnader@msfa.org or Austin Christner at austin.christner6@gmail.com. An updated version of the MSFA letterhead will be sent to all Officers and Committee Chairs via email in the coming days.

The MSFA Website has a New Look!

Check out the refreshed MSFA website, <https://msfa.org>, which has been streamlined to be more user-friendly. Same content, only better organized! *Please note that updates will still be occurring due to the recent name change so please be patient.

OSHA - Proposed Emergency Response Standard: Comments Extended to July 22

From the NVFC: "On February 5, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to modernize the agency's "Fire Brigades" standard with a proposed new "Emergency Response Standard." **This NPRM's publication triggered the beginning of a public comment period that is scheduled to conclude July 22, 2024.**

While many of the proposed provisions would be helpful and improve the safety of emergency responders, many of the new requirements would be very burdensome, and in many cases impossible, for volunteer fire and emergency service departments to comply with. If the standard is adopted in its current form, many departments would be forced to shut their doors or else operate outside of the federal standard, leaving themselves open to fines, citations, and huge civil liability exposure.

Nothing in the proposed standard is final at this stage, so now is the time to take action. It is critical that members of the fire and emergency services submit a public comment explaining what should be changed in the proposed standard and why. Here are resources to help you better understand the standard and how to submit an effective comment. For all you need to know on this proposed standard, visit: <https://www.nvfc.org/osha-standard/>

- Read the proposed standard in the Federal Register and submit a comment <https://bit.ly/3QneKJb>
 - View an outline of the requirements included in the proposed standard <https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/OSHA-Emergency-Response-Outline.pdf>
 - View a list of NFPA standards incorporated by reference in the proposed standard <https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Standards-Incorporated-by-Reference-into-OSHA-Proposed-Rule.pdf>
- Get answers to frequently asked questions about the standard <https://www.nvfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/OSHA-Standard-FAQs.pdf>”

SAFER and AFG Funding

On June 18, Congress took a significant step in supporting local fire departments across the nation by passing the Fire Grants and Safety Act (S. 870). Pending President Biden’s signature, final passage ensures the continuation and enhancement of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs. These crucial programs, facing a statutory termination date of September 30, 2024, have now been extended to September 30, 2030.

NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System)

Effective January 1, 2026, all U.S. fire service incident reporting will occur through NERIS and departments will no longer input data into NFIRS. This webinar <https://vimeo.com/932930106/831a83e3bc?share=copy> shares updates about onboarding timelines, how to sign up to be an early adopter, and the upcoming Beta Data Schema released on May 6. The USFA’s goal is to be as transparent as possible through the process and ensure the fire service knows that their concerns are heard and are being addressed to the best of their ability.

Recruiter Training Announcement: The MSFA R&R Team is excited to present regional offerings of the MissionCIT Retention and Recruitment Officer Course! Register NOW for the upcoming Fall classes-

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/>

SAVE THE DATES!

September 28, 2024; Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Gala, 1800hrs; Double Tree, Annapolis, MD

March 22, 2025 - Public Fire and Life Safety Seminar, 0800-1700; MFRI Headquarters, College Park, MD

Upcoming Training:

-**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.**

-**July 10, 2024; Rail Car Incident Response** 0800-1700; MFRI Headquarters, College Park MD
<https://www.mfri.org/course/seminars/SEM/143/S001/2025/>

-August 19-20, 2024; Fire Investigation: First Responders 0800-1700; MFRI Headquarters, College Park MD

This course has a Canvas component which requires internet access.

<https://www.mfri.org/register/NFA-101-S001-2025/seminars>

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

MSFA Committee Notices/Meeting Dates:

-The *Fire Police Committee* will be meeting via zoom on June 29 at 10am. Please reach out to Chair Kevin Albaugh if interested in participating: embka@aol.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 *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 *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 (Vice Chair)	mbilger@miemss.org
Dorchester/Talbot	Bob Phillips	rfcchief48@gmail.com
Frederick	Chip Jewell	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	Malcolm Faust	
Somerset/Wicomico/Worchester	PP Roger Steger (Chair)	rsteeger21842@gmail.com
Washington	Dale Fishack	chiefringgold@aol.com

MSFA SAFER Grant Contractors:

Program Manager	Heather Gorski	hgorki@msfa.org
Regional SAFER Coordinators:		
Western MD	Nicole Stotelmyer	nicoles@msfa.org
Eastern Shore	Mike Alfieri	malfieri@msfa.org
Southern MD	Dale Bowen	dbowen@msfa.org
Northeastern MD	Debbie Koermer	dkoermer@msfa.org