

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

Weekly Report 11/23/24

STATEWIDE BURN BAN LIFTED as of November 22, 2024

Is your Department “NERIS-Ready”? NERIS Updates Available Here:

<https://fsri.org/programs/neris>

NERIS Version 1 Launches to Support Data Modernization for the Fire Service:

“On November 4th, the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) launched, marking a major advancement in incident data collection for U.S. fire departments. This secure, cloud-based platform delivers all-hazards data and analytic tools that will empower fire and EMS leaders to enhance community safety and make better operational decisions.

NERIS is built to address emerging challenges, including lithium-ion battery fires, wildland-urban interface incidents, and extreme weather conditions. **After extensive beta testing with over 60 departments, NERIS Version 1 will now onboard 100 additional departments by the end of 2024.** This is part of a phased adoption strategy that will test the new platform at every step. **Beginning in January 2025, NERIS will undergo a 12-month nationwide rollout, eventually replacing the legacy National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) as the primary reporting tool for fire and emergency response for the nation’s approximately 27,000 fire departments.**” -FSRI

MSFA Committee Meeting Dates/Notices:

**All Committee Chairs: Please send any upcoming meeting/training dates to KLoveless@msfa.org to be posted in the weekly reports. Please send any requests to use the Zoom link at least two weeks prior to your meeting.*

***UPDATED DATE AND TIME:** *The Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee* will be meeting VIRTUALLY on November 24, 2024 at 1900 hrs. Contact Chair Teresa Crisman with any questions tacrisman@hotmail.com

-The **Safety Committee** will be meeting Monday, November 25, 2024 at 1830 via zoom. Contact Chair Jon Black at cdrb2115@comcast.net .

-The **Recruitment and Retention Committee** will be meeting virtually on Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 1000 hrs. Contact Chair Bridget Weishaar for more info: ivt1308@msn.com

-The **Convention Committee** will be meeting on January 6, 2025 at the Odenton VFD. Steering committee at 1800hrs. Full committee at 1900 hrs. An email to all committee members will be sent shortly.

-The **Safety Committee** will be meeting February 9, 2025 at SHA Hanover Complex Blvd, Hanover, MD from 1100-1400 and again on May 4, 2025 at the Sudlersville VFC 1100-1400. Contact Chair Jon Black with any questions at cdrb2115@comcast.net

-The **Volunteer Trumpet Committee** is always 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 Trumpet Editor: Jonathon Dayton jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com

CONVENTION 2025; June 15 – 19, 2025 Ocean City, MD

The Request for Instructor Proposals is Now Open: Teach at the Beach in 2025!

-If you are an instructor and have a relevant topic to cover next June, we would love to hear from you!
-Seminars should focus on state or federal policy or issues and have a positive impact on Maryland's fire and emergency services. Seminars intended solely to promote for-profit programs or activities that specifically benefit an individual or organization will not be considered.

-Seminars should be either 1.5 hours - 4 hours in length. The only exceptions are PDI courses and the EMT Skills class.

-Proposals should be submitted NO LATER than January 15th. Submit your seminar here:

<https://convention.msfa.org/registration/instructor-proposal/>

Online Links: Department Credentials/Registration, Exhibitor Registration, Sponsorships and Program book ad submissions will all open on January 1st, 2025.

Convention Website: The Convention and Conference website will be updated shortly to reflect all events and programs for 2025. Please visit the site often for all important convention content!

<https://convention.msfa.org/>

REMINDER AFG Applications are OPEN NOW!

Application Dates for the FY-2024 Grant Application Cycle

AFG Application period – November 4 – December 13

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/assistance-grants>

SAFER and FP&S Application period – December 16 – January 31

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer>

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safety-awards>

Start your application prep now!

MSA Cairns® 1836 Fire Helmet Giveaway

MSA is giving away four Cairns® 1836 Fire Helmets to NVFC members in 2024. The fourth and entry period is open through November 30. Enter here: <https://www.nvfc.org/special-opportunities-for-volunteer-fire-ems-and-rescue-personnel/>

Upcoming Training:

-Dec 14-15, 2024; MFCA Leadership Training Weekend Holiday Inn, Ocean City

Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/register/SEM-121-S001-2025/seminars>

-January 18, 2025; Mark G. Falkenhan Operational Leadership Seminar; Carroll County Public Safety Training Center. Register here <https://www.mfri.org/register/SEM-136-S001-2025/seminars>

- February 22-23, 2025 - Maryland Weekend at the NFA The 2025 brochure and registration application are located here: <https://zone.mfri.org/izone/schedule/export/file/SEM/119/S001/2025>

-March 22, 2025 - Public Fire and Life Safety Seminar, 0800-1700; MFRI Headquarters, College Park, MD Registration will open soon.

-March 24-25, 2025 - 1st Responder Conference: 1st Responder Mental Health & Wellness; Co-hosts: Behind the Line, Inc./ Worcester County Sheriff's Office. Ashore Resort & Beach Club, OC MD
<https://app.clearevent.com/eventPortal#event/6f44d386-02dd-4ac6-a941-bcc28ca20fe4/home>

NVFC Live Online Events in December:

-December 5, 2024 1400 hrs: Roundtable Talk: Shared Vision - What Your Department Can Do to Support the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy

Presenter: Doug deBest (Moderator), Mike Johnson, Nick Arnett, Jeff Romines, and Dave Celino

Join the NVFC for a Roundtable Talk focused on how fire departments can actively participate in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, a collaborative effort to address the nation's wildfire problems.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_USwu8HUeSRObxgp6Wg3kYw#/registration

-December 17, 2024 1400 hrs: Roundtable Talk: Understanding the Risks – Big-Box Fires and Non-Fire Emergencies

Panelists: Tom Merrill, Capt. Mike Dugan (ret), Capt. Mike Gagliano (ret.), and Capt. Clark Lamping

In small towns, where land is less expensive and highway/interstate access is convenient, distribution centers, warehouses, and industrial spaces continue to absorb land. Volunteer fire departments in these small communities protect a large portion of the millions of square feet that will require intervention with limited fire resources. In order to respond efficiently and safely.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nrdY98IPSSa7bI58h2dMWA#/registration

National Training:

Did you know that the NVFC has an Online Virtual Classroom portal? As an NVFC member, you can access them here: https://virtualclassroom.nvfc.org/featured_courses Not a member? The MSFA will reimburse you half of the membership fee!

Nomination Period Open for NVFC Awards

Submit your nominations for the NVFC's annual fire service achievement awards: Health & Wellness Leadership, Junior Firefighter of the Year, and Junior Firefighter Program of the Year.

<https://www.nvfc.org/about-us-awards/>

President Carey has scheduled his **December Executive Committee Meeting** of the Maryland State Firefighters Association for Saturday and Sunday, December 14th and 15th, 2024. The meeting will be at Berlin Fire Company, 214 North Main Street, Berlin, MD. The meeting will be called to order promptly at 9:00 a.m.

Hotel accommodations: Tru By Hilton, 3501 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD. Reserve your room:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/msfaexecutivecommitteeweekend2024/> .

Rooms are \$69.00 per night plus tax, using code MSFA.

Reservations must be made prior to November 25, 2024

A welcome reception has been planned for Friday Evening at the Berlin Social Hall between the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Come by and see your friends and enjoy some refreshments and have a chance to mingle with all.

The Berlin Fire Company advised that there will be a Hot Breakfast and Lunch on Saturday, December 14th for a fee and will provide a Continual Breakfast on Sunday, December 15th.

2025 Scheduled Executive Committee Dates:
February 22-23, 2025; Ridge VFC; St. Mary's County
April 26-27, 2025; Midland VFC; Allegany County

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 (Vice Chair)	ssgbabyduck@atlanticbb.net
Somerset/Wicomico/Worcester	PP Roger Steger (Chair)	rsteeger21842@gmail.com
Washington	Dale Fishack	chiefringgold@aol.com

MSFA SAFER Grant Contacts:

Program Manager
(Mont/How/AA) Heather Gorski hgorski@msfa.org

Regional R&R Coordinators:

Western MD
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Eastern Shore
(Wic/Wor/Som/Dor/Car/Tal/QA) Mike Alfieri malfieri@msfa.org

Southern MD
(St.M/Cal/Char/PG) Dale Bowen dbowen@msfa.org

Northeastern MD
(Carr/Cecil/Har/Balt/Kent) Debbie Koermer dkoermer@msfa.org

Happy Thanksgiving from the MSFA!