

# MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

*Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel*

## Weekly Report 11/30/24

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.**

**WELCOME RECEPTION LOCATION UPDATE:** A welcome reception has been planned for Friday evening, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Berlin Fire Company Conference Center located at 220 North Main Street (just north of the main HQ building) 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 Continental Breakfast on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The Weekly “Did You Know?”:** Did you know that the MSFA has a website dedicated to the retaining and recruitment of new members? Check out <https://marylandvolunteer.org> for everything your department needs to be successful! There is even a fully-stocked recruiter portal to help with marketing, social media, and much more. Check it out here: <https://marylandvolunteer.org/recruiter/>. Be sure to keep your department profile up-to-date!

### **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>

**REMINDER AFG Applications are OPEN for Just Two More Weeks!**

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!

### **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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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](mailto: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.*

-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](mailto: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](mailto:jonathan.m.dayton@gmail.com)

---

### **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 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Conference: 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

---

### **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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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/>

---

## **NVFC Live Online Events in December:**

**-December 5, 2024, 1300 hrs; Webinar - Grant Management Basics for AFG Awards;** Hosted by Fire Engineering. Presenter: David Lewis

Accepting a grant award comes with considerable responsibility, which first-time grant recipients or departments without dedicated grant managers may not realize. This webcast will offer you the key principles of grant management that you must understand before accepting a grant award.

[https://clarionevents.zoom.us/webinar/register/5516680031024/WN\\_lchjxAt5SBKYekKUdFmK-A#/registration](https://clarionevents.zoom.us/webinar/register/5516680031024/WN_lchjxAt5SBKYekKUdFmK-A#/registration)

**-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](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](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nrdY98IPSSa7bI58h2dMWA#/registration)

## **MSFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BY COUNTY:**

Allegany/Garrett	Tim Dayton	<a href="mailto:daytontd22@gmail.com">daytontd22@gmail.com</a>
Anne Arundel	Ron Block	<a href="mailto:blockntackle@comcast.net">blockntackle@comcast.net</a>
Baltimore	Doug Simpkins, Jr.	<a href="mailto:dougsimpkins350@gmail.com">dougsimpkins350@gmail.com</a>
Calvert/Charles/St. Mary's	Randy Smith	<a href="mailto:firehouseblues56@yahoo.com">firehouseblues56@yahoo.com</a>
Carroll/Howard	PP Mark Bilger (Vice Chair)	<a href="mailto:mbilger@miemss.org">mbilger@miemss.org</a>
Dorchester/Talbot	Bob Phillips	<a href="mailto:rfechief48@gmail.com">rfechief48@gmail.com</a>
Frederick	Chip Jewell	<a href="mailto:cjecc171@comcast.net">cjecc171@comcast.net</a>
Harford/Cecil	PP Steve Cox	<a href="mailto:msfa96@gmail.com">msfa96@gmail.com</a>
Montgomery	Buddy Sutton	<a href="mailto:b.sutton@ldvfd.org">b.sutton@ldvfd.org</a>
Prince George's	Lee Lutz	<a href="mailto:leelutz49@gmail.com">leelutz49@gmail.com</a>
Queen Anne's/Kent/Caroline	Malcolm Faust (Vice Chair)	<a href="mailto:ssgbabyduck@atlanticbb.net">ssgbabyduck@atlanticbb.net</a>
Somerset/Wicomico/Worcester	PP Roger Steger (Chair)	<a href="mailto:rsteeger21842@gmail.com">rsteeger21842@gmail.com</a>
Washington	Dale Fishack	<a href="mailto:chiefringgold@aol.com">chiefringgold@aol.com</a>

### **2025 Scheduled Executive Committee Dates:**

**February 22-23, 2025; Ridge VFC; St. Mary's County**

**April 26-27, 2025; Midland VFC; Allegany County**

**MSFA SAFER Grant Contacts:**

Program Manager

(Mont/How/AA)

Heather Gorski

[hgorski@msfa.org](mailto:hgorski@msfa.org)

**Regional R&R Coordinators:**

Western MD

(Wash/Alleg/Garr/Fred)

Nicole Stotelmyer

[nicoles@msfa.org](mailto:nicoles@msfa.org)

Eastern Shore

(Wic/Wor/Som/Dor/Car/Tal/QA) Mike Alfieri

[malfieri@msfa.org](mailto:malfieri@msfa.org)

Southern MD

(St.M/Cal/Char/PG)

Dale Bowen

[dbowen@msfa.org](mailto:dbowen@msfa.org)

Northeastern MD

(Carr/Cecil/Har/Balt/Kent)

Debbie Koermer

[dkoermer@msfa.org](mailto:dkoermer@msfa.org)