

MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

Representing the Volunteer Fire, Rescue and Emergency Medical Services Personnel

Weekly Report 12/14/24

The Weekly “Did You Know?”

Did you know that the MSFA has several SAFER programs available for all member departments to participate in through the end of 2025? Some of those programs include free, customized Cadet/Junior Program Marketing, FREE training with travel reimbursement opportunities, and a third round of Event Marketing Grants coming up in the spring. Reach out to SAFER Program Manager, Heather Gorski at hgorski@msfa.org for more information.

Application Dates for the FY-2024 Grant Application Cycle

AFG application period - Nov. 12 - Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. ET.

<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!

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application Questions Webinar

When: December 17 from 1000-1100hrs and December 18 from 1900-2000hrs

David Lewis, NVFC director from Maryland and grants subject matter expert, is here to help! Join him for office hours to ask your questions or hear what others are asking as you finalize your grant application. Join any time during the hour.

December 17th link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAoceGrqzIqHNL15Dkaj72hwuSTrJl6CrWg#/registration>

December 18th link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtf-mspzMtGd0T1hu1lo5kdCtS-HWtHbKi#/registration>

2024 Tax Incentive Forms Now Available

<https://msfa.org/2024-tax-incentive-form-information-packet-now-available/>

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.”

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 Online Directory

The MSFA will be working on implementing an online, password-protected directory to be placed on the website. If you are currently listed in the directory and wish to OPT OUT of the online version, which will only consist of emails and phone numbers (no addresses), please email your information to kloveless@msfa.org.

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.*

-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

Upcoming Training:

-**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>

-**January 18, 2025 - The Anne Arundel Fire Summit;** MFRI Upper Eastern Shore Regional Training Center <https://www.mfri.org/register/SEM-148-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 2-7, 2025 - National Fire Service Staff And Command DoubleTree** by Hilton Hotel, Annapolis. Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/register/MGTS-301-R002-2025/seminars>

-**March 8-9, 2025 – John W. Hogle Maryland Officers Seminar** The registration link will be available shortly.

-**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>

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

-**Joint Memorial Service:** Reminder to submit the names of your departed members NO LATER than February 1st for the 2025 Joint Memorial Service at Convention.

-**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/>

LAMSFA News

Bessie Marshall Fund

Any member of a company or department in good standing with the Maryland State Firefighters Association who is sick or injured (NOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR DEATH BENEFIT) and thereby incapacitated may be entitled to weekly benefits. Members must be 18 years of age or older. Approval will depend on compliance with the application requirements. Any sick or injured member receiving Social Security Benefits or retirement may be eligible for said benefits. All decisions regarding benefits shall be made by the Bessie Marshall Benefit committee, whose judgments in all cases shall be final and binding. Should sickness or injury continue for longer than one (1) week, for each week after the first week said member may be eligible to receive up to ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$170.00) per week not to exceed SIX (6) WEEKS OR ONE THOUSAND TWENTY DOLLARS (\$1020.00) in any fiscal year. A member is not eligible for more than two (2) consecutive years. Any additional request for benefits must be based on a new incident, not on an existing one. More information and application can be found here

<https://msfa.org/lamsfa/resources/>

Spring Conference

April 5, 2025 – Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Company

NVFC Live Online Events in December:

-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

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
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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)	rsteiger21842@gmail.com
Washington	Dale Fishack	chiefringgold@aol.com

MSFA SAFER Grant Contacts:

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