

# 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 SAFER grant currently offers FREE updates to your department or county cadet/CTE program marketing to include FREE printing of materials? If you have a program that needs a new look, contact SAFER Program Manager Heather Gorski at [hgorski@msfa.org](mailto:hgorski@msfa.org) for more details.

### 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 fill out and submit this form no later than March 1st: <https://msfa.org/msfa-online-directory-opt-out-form/>

**VCAF Loans- IMPORTANT CHANGE: Companies applying for a VCAF loan must be in the pre-contract phase of their acquisition process. Companies that have already signed a contract for the project (apparatus and/or equipment) are ineligible to apply for a VCAF loan.**

**-The VCAF online application period will open on January 01, 2025.** If your company is in good standing with the MSFA (credentials on file), in the pre-contract phase of the acquisition process, and plans to apply for a VCAF loan, have a company representative immediately contact your regional VCAF representative to begin the application process. Click this link to find your VCAF representative: [Volunteer Company Assistance Fund Committee - Maryland State Firefighter's Association](#)

\*Every company applying for a VCAF loan must first build a draft application; a process that takes time, so please contact your regional VCAF representative to get the draft application started. The VCAF committee will strictly adhere to the following application schedule:

**-January 01, 2025** – Open for new VCAF loan applications. Regional VCAF representatives should immediately begin working with companies to start the draft process.

**-March 09, 2025** – Draft applications must be reviewed and approved by the regional VCAF representative. If the company fails to complete the draft application by the March 9th deadline, the application is disqualified.

**-March 14, 2025** – Companies with an approved draft application must open and begin populating their new online VCAF loan application.

**-March 23, 2025** – All opened online loan applications must be finalized and submitted.

**-April 06, 2025** - VCAF Board will meet (location TBD) to hear testimony from applicants (Company representatives), discuss terms, and vote in favor of, or in opposition to forwarding the application(s) to the MSFA Executive Committee for MSFA approval.

**-April 14, 2025** - The VCAF Chair will present approved applications to the MSFA Executive committee during their April 14th meeting. The Executive Committee will review loan requirements, discuss terms, and vote in favor of, or opposition of forwarding the application(s) to the Maryland Board of Public Works (Governor, Treasurer, and Comptroller) for final approval.

**-June 2025** – (meeting date TBD) Maryland Board of Public Works will review and vote in favor of, or opposition of VCAF loan approvals.

**\*Please note that the MSFA will only accept VCAF loan applications for fire, rescue, and EMS apparatus and equipment during this application period. No grants or facility projects will be considered during this application period.**

**Is your Department “NERIS-Ready”? Updates Available Here:** <https://fsri.org/programs/neris>

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

**2024 Tax Incentive Forms Now Available**

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

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

**-Online Links Opening January 1: Department Credentials/Registration, Exhibitor Registration, Sponsorships and Program book ad submissions**

**-Joint Memorial Service:** Reminder to submit the names of your departed members NO LATER than February 1<sup>st</sup> 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/>

**-Convention Website:** The Convention and Conference website will be updated on a weekly basis to reflect all events and programs for 2025. Please visit the site often for all important convention content! <https://convention.msfa.org/>

**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)

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**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 - 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>

**Application Dates for the FY-2024 Grant Application Cycle**

\*FEMA has pushed back the FY2024 application date for SAFER and FP&S. We will advise when they confirm the new dates. Be prepared and start your application prep now!  
<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safer>  
<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/safety-awards>

**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. More information and application can be found here <https://msfa.org/lamsfa/resources/>

**Spring Conference**

April 5, 2025 – Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Company

**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	<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:rfcchief48@gmail.com">rfcchief48@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  
Queen Anne's/Kent/Caroline  
Somerset/Wicomico/Worcester  
Washington

Lee Lutz  
Malcolm Faust (Vice Chair)  
PP Roger Steger (Chair)  
Dale Fishack

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**MSFA SAFER Grant Contacts:**

Program Manager  
(Mont/How/AA)

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**Regional R&R Coordinators:**

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Eastern Shore

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