

# MARYLAND STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

-a 501(c)3 Organization

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

## Weekly Report 1/4/25

### The Weekly “Did You Know?”

Did you know that the MSFA is always looking for interested individuals to serve on its committees? To view our list of committees and submit an interest form, visit: <https://msfa.org/committees/>

### 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/>

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

**\*Please note that edits to the events page are still being made. Some dates and times may show incorrectly until updated.**

#### **-Online Links Now Open:**

Department Credentials/Registration: <https://convention.msfa.org/registration/departments-credentials/>

Exhibitor Registration: <https://convention.msfa.org/registration/exhibitors/>

Sponsorships: <https://convention.msfa.org/sponsors/opportunities/>

Program book ads: <https://convention.msfa.org/sponsors/advertising/>

#### **-DEADLINES APPROACHING:**

##### **\*\*January 15th: Request for Instructor Proposals**

If you are an instructor and have a relevant topic to cover in June, we would love to hear from you! Seminars should focus on state or federal issues and have an impact on Maryland’s fire and emergency services. Seminars should be either 1.5 hours - 4 hours in length. The only exceptions are PDI courses and the EMT Skills class.

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

**\*\*February 1st: Joint Memorial Service:** Reminder to submit the names of your departed members  
Submit here:

<https://convention.msfa.org/registration/departments-credentials/joint-memorial-service/>

**-Check out all of the Awards** that are available to submit a nomination for: <https://msfa.org/awards/>

**-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/>

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**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 is now OPEN.** 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.**

### **Training Sponsorships:**

The MFCA is sponsoring MD fire service individuals to attend the **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>

Reimbursement will be for ONE night lodging up to \$110/night at the Best Western in Westminster MD and mileage for anyone traveling over 50 miles one way. No application to attend is required.

The MFCA is sponsoring 15 MD fire service individuals to attend the **March 2-7, 2025 - National Fire Service Staff and Command** in Annapolis, MD.

Register here: <https://www.mfri.org/register/MGTS-301-R002-2025/seminars>

Reimbursement will be for \$2,075/pp which includes UP TO 6 nights lodging or \$1,355/pp without lodging. All class materials, refreshments, and off-site activities are included.

Please email this request to Attend to [scholarships@mdchief.org](mailto:scholarships@mdchief.org)

[Training-and-Conference-Scholarship-Request-Form.pdf](#)

The MSFA and MFCA are sponsoring 20 MD fire service individuals to attend the **March 24-25, 2025 - 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Conference: 1<sup>st</sup> Responder Mental Health & Wellness** in Ocean City, MD

<https://app.clearevent.com/eventPortal#event/6f44d386-02dd-4ac6-a941-bcc28ca20fe4/home>

Reimbursement will be for the conference fee, up to TWO nights lodging at \$115/night, and mileage for anyone traveling over 50 miles one way.

Please email this request to attend form to [scholarships@mdchief.org](mailto:scholarships@mdchief.org)

[Training-and-Conference-Scholarship-Request-Form.pdf](#)

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### **Is your Department “NERIS-Ready”?**

Beginning this month, 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

Keep up to date on how and when it will impact your department here: <https://fsri.org/programs/neris>

### **2024 Tax Incentive Forms Now Available**

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

### **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.*

**-NEW DATE:** The *Convention Committee* will be meeting on January 15, 2025 at the Odenton VFD. Steering committee at 1800hrs. Full committee at 1900 hrs. An email has been sent to all committee members.

*-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>

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### **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: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:rstegeer21842@gmail.com">rstegeer21842@gmail.com</a>
Washington	Dale Fishack	<a href="mailto:chiefringgold@aol.com">chiefringgold@aol.com</a>

#### **MSFA SAFER Grant Contacts:**

Program Manager

(Mont/How/AA)

Heather Gorski

[hgoriski@msfa.org](mailto:hgoriski@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

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Southern MD

(St.M/Cal/Char/PG)

Dale Bowen

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Northeastern MD

(Carr/Cecil/Har/Balt/Kent)

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