

# THE VOLUNTEER TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION OF THE MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2011

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3



## Annual Smoke Alarm Donation with Delmarva Power!

*Courtesy of Delmarva Power and Emmons Horner*



*From the left are Delmarva Power Vice President John Allen.; MSFA President, David Lewis; Peggy Webb, representing the Fire And Burn Coalition of Maryland; Fire Marshal Bill Barnard; K. C. Herrington, representing the Md. State Fire Prevention Commission, and Past Chief of the Salisbury Fire Dept. , David See, representing the Maryland Fire Chiefs Association, all partners in this venture to save lives.*

Once again, the annual smoke alarm donation event by Delmarva Power & Light Co. and Associates was held at the Company's Southern Division Offices, in Salisbury. Over the past eleven years, they have donated over 16,400 traditional smoke alarms, 882 special needs smoke alarms, and 1,450 carbon monoxide alarms greatly enhancing the safety of those we serve.

Mr. John Allen, Vice President of Delmarva Power stressed the importance of this Partnership, which enables the Fire Service Community to provide the level of service that is needed to protect our Citizens. Maryland State Fire Marshall, Mr. Bill Barnard expressed the appreciation of the Emergency Services, for this annual donation that is so vital to our operations. Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse and Harris Communications of Minnesota provide the alarms to Delmarva Power at a reduced cost to support the safety effort. The event was well attended by several members of the Emergency Services Community,

who all expressed appreciation for the Annual Event. The Salisbury office of the Fire Marshal began the distribution of Smoke Alarms to the Eastern Shore Companies. This year Delmarva Power donated 2,000 traditional smoke alarms and 60 special needs smoke alarms.

A huge thank you to Delmarva Power for their continued support of the smoke alarm program!



**MSFA Officers**  
**2011-2012**

**President**

David W. Lewis  
Odenton VFC – Anne  
Arundel  
533 Oakton Rd.  
Odenton, MD 21113  
Home: 410-674-3940  
Cell: 240-882-3718  
[dlewis@msfa.org](mailto:dlewis@msfa.org)

**First Vice President**

John Denver  
Singerly Steam – Cecil  
458 Bow St.  
Elkton, MD 21921  
Home: 410-698-5356  
Cell: 443-945-3316  
[jdenver@msfa.org](mailto:jdenver@msfa.org)

**Second Vice President**

Jackie Olson  
Ferndale VFC – Anne  
Arundel  
424 Greenland Beach Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21226  
Home: 410-255-7745  
Cell: 443-871-0409  
[Fdoiso45@aaccounty.org](mailto:Fdoiso45@aaccounty.org)

**Secretary**

Joseph A. Cooper  
Bay District VFD – St.  
Mary's  
22873 Dement La.  
California, MD 20619  
Home: 301-863-5363  
Cell: 240-925-9583  
[bdvfd@verizon.net](mailto:bdvfd@verizon.net)

**Treasurer**

Ron Siarnicki  
United Communities –  
Queen Anne's  
216 Queen Anne Club Dr.  
Stevensville, MD 21666  
Home: 443-249-0455  
Cell: 301-467-5780  
[rsiarnicki@aol.com](mailto:rsiarnicki@aol.com)

**Financial Secretary**

George A. "Fred Cross ,  
Jr.  
Chestnut Ridge—  
Baltimore  
PO Box 4764  
Lutherville, MD 21094  
Home: 410-252-3721  
Cell: 410-984-5366  
[msfa500@aol.com](mailto:msfa500@aol.com)

**Chief Chaplain**

Rev. John F. Long Jr.  
Ferndale VFC – Anne  
Arundel  
343 Coolbreeze Ct.  
Pasadena, MD 21122  
Home: 410-437-6756  
Cell: 443-623-0753  
[jflongjr@yahoo.com](mailto:jflongjr@yahoo.com)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe how fast the year is flying! It seems like only yesterday that I took the oath of office on stage in Ocean City at our annual Convention. Yet, here we are today at the mid-point in my term as President. I am grateful for the work that everyone has put forth on behalf of the MSFA and the hospitality that I have been given across this state.

The MSFA Executive Committee held its second meeting of the year on November 12-13 at the Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Company. We were shown some great hospitality from the folks at Parsonsburg VFC and I would like to thank them for a job well done. If you have not had an opportunity to visit their new fire station, I would encourage you to stop by and see what some hard work and good planning activities can achieve. Our next Executive Committee meeting will be held on February 18-19, 2012 at the Sudlersville Volunteer Fire Company. As always, we invite each of you to visit with us for the meeting and learn about the activities of your state association. Each MSFA Committee submits an electronic report for the Executive Committee meetings, so if you are unable to attend but interested in a specific activity of the MSFA, please visit the Document Library on the MSFA web page for these reports.

One of the key decisions made at the last Executive Committee meeting was the adoption of the MSFA Operational Plan for 2011-2012. This plan was the product of the MSFA Planning Committee who took a hard look at the strengths and weaknesses of our association and set a roadmap for the future. The plan identified five priorities to be worked on for the year 2011-2012, which the officers are already heavily engaged in:

1. Improvements to internal/external communications
2. Increase emphasis on firefighter safety
3. Restructure MSFA's Recruitment/Retention program
4. Continue to identify financial support opportunities for our members
5. Evaluate the MSFA organizational structure and its committees

Your Convention and Conference Committee is already hard at work preparing for next year's convention. One thing is for sure – you should expect changes in the coming year's convention. Construction has started on the Ocean City

Convention Center expansion project and this will cause us to relocate some activities. Also, look for changes this year in the parade route. The Town of Ocean City has requested that we move the parade route to the northern part of town to minimize the traffic effects to the downtown Ocean City area. The good news is that we have already contracted to bring back the Monday family night at the Jolly Rogers Amusement Park. And the program committee is working hard, based on your feedback, to bring some hands-on training opportunities to the convention. More details on the Convention and Conference will be provided to you as planning efforts are completed. Look for a preliminary program packet to be released sometime shortly after the first of the New Year.

In closing, Gloria and I would like to extend best wishes to each of you for a happy and safe holiday. Please take the time during this holiday period to spend time with your family and loved ones.

David W. Lewis,  
President,  
Maryland State Firemen's  
Association



## CHESAPEAKE CITY VFC CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

*Photo and Story By: Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Information Committee*

On October 8, 2011, the Chesapeake City Volunteer Fire Company, of Cecil County, hosted a Cocktail Banquet to begin the culmination of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. The company was formed 100 years ago, and several events were planned to celebrate their longevity.

The well-attended event was held at the main station of the company, in their community room on the second floor of the station. Guests entered through the engine room, where they were greeted by members of the department's Board of Directors and asked to sign their Memorial address book. Upstairs, a social hour preceded the formal greetings and presentations. Everyone was treated to a large table of delicacies prepared for the occasion. Many certificates and plaques were presented to the fire company to commemorate the occasion; among them a plaque from the Maryland State Firemen's Association from President Dave Lewis, LAMSFA President Teresa Crisman, and MSFA 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Denver.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Ms. Nicole B. Simpson. Ms. Simpson was present in the New York City Twin Towers when they were attacked on September 11, 2001. Her escape from her office was quite providential, and in her words, based on following her gut reaction rather than listening to the people around her. Her feelings toward the firefighters and other first responders that entered the buildings and tried to help rescue the



*MSFA plaque presented to the Chesapeake City VFC for the 100 years of service to their community. L to r – Chesapeake City Director Jimmy Watkins, Chesapeake City Director Rich Lyttle, MSFA President Dave Lewis, LAMSFA President Teresa Crisman, and MSFA 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Denver*

workers there affected her deeply, and were the basis of her message for the evening.

Ms. Robyn Sheldon Hahn, Chairman of the Centennial Committee, noted that there were several other events scheduled over the next week for the members to wind up their year-long celebration of their 100 year history. The Maryland State Firemen's Association salutes the Chesapeake City VFC for their accomplishment.





Upcoming Events:

*December 17th:*  
Breakfast w/Santa  
Westminster VFD  
7-11am

*December 18th:*  
Country Breakfast w/  
Santa @ Mt. Airy  
VFD  
7:30-11:30am

*December 18th:*  
Country Breakfast w/  
Santa @ Goodwill  
VFC  
7:30-11am

*December 18th:*  
Breakfast with Santa  
and Mrs. Claus @  
Abingdon VFD  
8-11am

*December 18th:*  
MSFA Training  
Committee Meeting @  
MFRI North Central  
Regional Office  
10am-12noon

*January 15th:*  
Safety Committee  
Meeting @ MFRI  
Headquarters,  
College Park  
10am-12noon

*January 27th-29th:*  
Winterfest EMS  
Tilghman Island,  
Talbot County, MD

*January 28th:*  
MSP Polar Bear  
Plunge  
Sandy Point State Park  
All day

*February 18-19th:*  
MSFA Executive  
Committee Meeting  
Sudlersville VFD

For more information  
visit [www.msfa.org](http://www.msfa.org) for  
a full calendar.

**CECIL COUNTY MISS FIRE PREVENTION SELECTED!**

*Photo and Story by Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Information Committee*

The Cecil County Volunteer Firemen’s Association recently held their annual Miss Fire Prevention contest at the Chesapeake City fire station. A large crowd assembled to cheer on the candidates for the titles of Little Fire Chief, Little Miss Fire Prevention, and Junior Miss Fire Prevention. There was only one candidate for the title of Miss Fire Prevention - Miss Megan Delp, Miss Chesapeake City; but she went through the entire process as well to gain experience for the MSFA Miss Fire Prevention contest in June. Richard Brooks was the emcee, a role he has handled for many years, and he did his best to put the contestants at ease as they were introduced and given questions selected at random on various fire prevention areas.

The judges were Miss Harford County Fire Prevention Stacey Holden, Zachary Coyle of the Havre de Grace Ambulance Company, and

Ms. Lorie Deel. Contestants for Little Miss Cecil County Fire Prevention were Taylor Dixon, Little Miss Cecilton; Julia Burchett, Little Miss Singerly; and Kristyn Gardner, Little Miss Perryville. The Cecil County Little Miss Fire Prevention for 2011 – 2012 was Miss Dixon.

The Little Fire Chief con-

Cecilton, Mary Dixon; Miss Singerly, Allison Burchett; Miss Perryville, Michaela Patrick; and Miss Rising Sun, Madaline Moore. Miss Burchett was selected as Cecil County Junior Miss Fire Prevention, and Miss Patrick was selected First Runner-up. While Miss Delp had no one in competition against her for the title of Miss Fire Prevention, she still

was subjected to the same scrutiny that all the other contestants received. She displayed the poise and knowledge that will help her with the fire prevention duties she inherits with the title.



*The Cecil County Fire Prevention Ambassadors 2011-2012.*

test was between Luke Sheldon, Little Fire Chief Chesapeake City and Nicholas Barr, Little Fire Chief Chesapeake City. Luke Sheldon was selected to be Cecil County Little Fire Chief 2011 – 2012. In the contest for Junior Miss Fire Prevention, there were four contestants: Miss

All of the contestants displayed a fine knowledge of fire prevention information and spoke well when they were questioned in front of the audience. Congratulations to all of the competitors, and special kudos to the Miss Cecil County Fire Prevention Committee for a very well-run contest.



## MSFA SUPPORTS NFFF DAY AT DOVER SPEEDWAY



*Pictured from L to R 1st VP John Denver; Executive Director NFFF Ron Siarnicki, 2nd VP Jackie Olson; President Dave Lewis, and LAMSFA President Teresa Crisman.*

On October 2, MSFA President David Lewis, First Vice President John Denver, Second Vice President Jackie Olson, and MSFA Ladies Auxiliary President Teresa Crisman were guests of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Firefighter Appreciation Event at Dover International Speedway. This event has grown each year since its inaugural event in 2008 and this year brought in almost \$90,000 to support the programs of the NFFF. Congratulations to the Branchville Volunteer Fire Department who had honors this year in serving as one of the fire department escorts for family survivors during the pre-race activities. The MSFA extends our sincere thanks to the NFFF and Executive Director Ron Siarnicki for allowing us to participate in this event.

## Branchville VFC Participates in NFFF Event at Dover Speedway

*By: Deputy Chief, Lani Lindsey, Branchville VFC*

Engine 111 from Branchville VFC hosted the Neville Family from Baltimore County who lost their beloved Brian in October of 2008. Brian was a Firefighter/Paramedic with the Baltimore County Fire Department. He was assigned to Station 11 in Baltimore County but was completing his shift at Station 17 as the EMS Lieutenant. He never awoke the morning after his shift after several attempts by his fellow firefighters. Brian was just 33 years old and leaves behind his wife Catie and 3 young children. Branchville hopes to participate next year and in years to come to honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.



*Pictured to the left is the Neville Family with Engine 111 which escorted the family around the Monster Mile in honor of Brian Neville.*

### GET YOUR 411 from these IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA)  
[www.msfa.org](http://www.msfa.org)

MSFA Foundation  
[msfafoundation.org](http://msfafoundation.org)

Maryland Fire Rescue Memorial Foundation  
[mdfirerescuehero.org](http://mdfirerescuehero.org)

Maryland Fire Chiefs Association  
[www.mdchiefs.org](http://www.mdchiefs.org)

Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute (MFRI)  
[www.mfri.org](http://www.mfri.org)

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS)  
[www.miemss.org](http://www.miemss.org)

University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center  
[www.umm.edu/shocktrauma](http://www.umm.edu/shocktrauma)

Maryland State Police Aviation Command  
[mspaviation.org](http://mspaviation.org)

Maryland State Fire Marshal  
[www.firemarshal.state.md.us](http://www.firemarshal.state.md.us)

Maryland Emergency Management Agency  
[www.mema.state.md.us](http://www.mema.state.md.us)

Department of Natural Resources/Forestry  
[www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/forests)



## National Fallen Firefighters Foundation holds Annual Memorial Service

Under bright and sunny skies on October 16, the nation's fire service paused to remember the 72 firefighters who died in the line of duty during 2010 and 17 who died in previous years and were being recognized for the first time. This was the 30<sup>th</sup> year that the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation dedicated a weekend to remember those firefighters who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty and provide support to the family and fire service survivors.

The weekend activities begin with the arrival of families on Friday who are provided a welcome dinner from the NFFF. On Saturday, the families travel to the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg where opportunities are made available to attend workshops and talk with other families and survivors about their experiences. The Saturday activities conclude with a twilight candlelight service in memory of those lost in the line of duty. The families return to NETC on Sunday for the annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. The name of each firefighter is read and



*At the Memorial Service pictured from Left to Right are 1st VP John Denver, LAMSFA President Teresa Crisman, President Dave Lewis, and 2nd VP Jackie Olson.*

a flag presented to the families in recognition of their service. More than 3,000 fire service members, families, and survivors attend the service each year.

The Maryland State Firemen's Association is proud to be a partner with NFFF in the annual service. With this being the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, special tribute was made to Past President A. Marvin Gibbons who was the primary visionary behind establishing a national memorial in honor of those firefighters lost in the line of duty. It was only through Marvin's persistence that this vi-

sion became a reality. Marvin would truly be proud of how the service how expanded over the years and the NFFF now being able to support the surviving families on a continuing basis.

The MSFA presents each family with a lithograph representation of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial. Many of the survivor families report back that they now have the lithograph framed and hung in their homes as a tribute to their loved one and in recognition of the service provided by the NFFF and MSFA in keeping their memories alive.



## Passing of Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps Life Member

*By: Buddy and Luanne Schweers*

It is with deep regret that the Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps announces the death of Life Member Norma J. Rice on Sunday October 16, 2011 after a year long battle with Cancer. Norma served for over 30 years as a Member of the Ambulance Corps. Norma served as an Active Member for 29 years before having to go to Lifetime last year due to her Health Issues. Norma served the Ambulance Corps with Honor and Distinction throughout her years of Service while holding the Office of Treasurer for 7 years from 1988 through 1994 and also serving on many of the Ambulance Corps Committees during her many years of Service. Norma's most proud function with the Corps was as a Committee Member and Co-Chairman of the Banquet Committee and the Ways and Means Committee for over 25 years. Norma also served with the Ladies Auxiliary to the Susquehanna Hose Company for over 34 years holding various Offices and serving on many Committees in that Organization throughout her time with the Ladies Auxiliary. Our Thoughts and Prayers go out to her Family and Friends.



An EMS Memorial Services for Norma was held on October 20, 2011 at 1900 hrs at Zellman Funeral Home in Havre de Grace and Funeral Services were held on October 21, 2011 at Harford Memorial Gardens in Harford County with a Reception at the Havre de Grace Ambulance Corps. 1601 Level Rd. Havre de Grace, MD 21078 immediately following the Funeral Services.

## MSFA and LAMSFA Supports Mount Vernon Fundraiser

*By Sandi Lutz, Past President LAMSFA*

Saturday evening, November 12, 2011, MSFA President David Lewis, along with several committee members of the MSFA Executive Committee, LAMSFA PP's and guests attended a fundraiser at the Mount Vernon VFC in Somerset County Maryland following the MSFA Executive meeting hosted by Parsonsburg VFD in Wicomico County. Everyone enjoyed great food and creating a few new friendships. There were various food stations, raffles and an auction. It was a great way to spend a Saturday evening.





## MFCA Select Fire Prevention Ambassadors

By: Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Information Committee; Photo: Megan Hiltz

On October 30, 2011, contestants gathered at the Cranford-Graves Building of the Prince Georges' County Fire Department to compete for the fire prevention ambassador titles of the Maryland Fire Chiefs' Association. At stake were the titles of Little Fire Chief, Little Miss Fire Prevention, Junior Miss Fire Prevention, and Miss Fire Prevention.

Megan Hiltz, MSFA's 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up Miss Fire Prevention, served as the emcee for the event.

The judges were Elyssa Cool, Bridget Weishaar, Staci Jaret, and Amber Leizar. All contestants, even those who were unopposed, had to meet with the judges, then appear in front of the audience and answer questions from the Magic Pan. The contestants for Little Fire Chief and Junior Miss Fire Prevention were unopposed. They were, for Little Chief, Ian Younkins, from Germantown; and for Junior Miss Fire Prevention, Morgan Alder

from Winfield.

In the competition for Little Miss Fire Prevention, Jadyn Howard from Bowie and Grace Aceto from Sandy Spring were the contestants. Miss Aceto was selected to serve as Little Miss Fire Prevention and Miss Howard was 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up. The Miss Fire Prevention contest had four contestants. Stacey Holden, Bel Air; Danielle Crane, Kensington; Ann Marie Gaither, Clarksville; and

Lauren Thompson, Hurlock appeared before the crowd and answered fire prevention questions randomly selected. Miss Thompson was selected for the Miss Fire Prevention title for the MFCA, and will represent the MFCA in Ocean City. Miss Holden was designated 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up. Congratulations to all of the contestants for competing for the various titles. Many thanks to Teresa Crisman and her helpers for all their work in getting the contest together.



## Eldorado-Brookview receives New Engine and Governor's Citation







## Does your Department have Laryngitis?

*By Ron Watkins, MSFA Public Information Committee*

Laryngitis. When we have it, no one can hear our voice. Our best efforts are weak and scratchy. Our messages to others are frequently not heard or misinterpreted, as we can't be heard well. When we have it, we go to the doctor to get a "cure" so that it goes away and we have our voice again.

Way too often, our fire and rescue departments develop a form of laryngitis. Our message becomes weak, or even absent, and our needs are not heard by those who need to hear them. When this happens, our public does not hear about fire prevention, about our fund raisers, our equipment needs, etc. The politicians that control our local and State monies do not hear our needs, and so assume we have enough, maybe even too much, and often cut our funds. New recruits are harder to come by, as they cannot hear our recruiting messages. Is there a cure? Can we find a "doctor" to help us? Often, the "cure" is found in our own organization, and the "doctor" is not needed – self-medication will get our voice back. It involves remembering that our message needs to be LOUD and CLEAR every chance we get. There are things we can do as a department to get our word out.

First, we must remember that people do not always know what we are doing – even if we have done them every year. Any fund-raiser, dinner, dance, etc.; must be publicized, and in plenty of time for your public to plan to attend. People have many more diversions and things that take their time up now than they did years ago, and we must make sure that our activities are presented to them so that we can get on their schedule. Signs along heavily traveled roads, at our station, in local businesses should be up at least two weeks before any function. If there is a local newspaper, try to get an article about the activity in to draw interest. The Internet, along with the "social" networks such as Twitter and Facebook, help get the word out to a wide area. Another thing not often done is to check with other local organizations so that our activities are not in conflict with their functions. This just draws off possible attendees from both groups.

Speaking of the Internet, having a department Web site is a very good way to have a place to showcase your department and highlight any events coming up. This can be an easy way to provide fire prevention information, show off new equipment, identify new members, and congratulate persons that have completed new training classes. The public can use this for frequently asked questions, and when there are community issues, the fire department's opinion can be publicly displayed.

While we are at it, newly promoted members, new equipment, information about recent and upcoming training events should be submitted to local papers and your Web site. Remember – every time an article about the department runs, a picture should accompany it, and that picture should have the company name prominently displayed. Apparatus backgrounds, company banner, or department uniform shirts with logo catch the attention of your constituents, and raise the level of your "voice".

When you take these steps to "speak up" and give your department a prominent place in the community, your laryngitis will go away and your messages will be heard loud and clear. If you have any questions about how to do these things, contact the Public Information Committee of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, through the MSFA's Web site – [www.msfa.org](http://www.msfa.org).



## MSFA Marketing Committee Introduces New Sponsor

By: Buddy Schweers, MSFA Marketing Committee

The Maryland State Firemen's Association is pleased to announce a spectacular member benefit: **California Casualty Auto & Home Insurance.**

MSFA chose California Casualty because of its unique coverages, long term financial stability, exceptional customer service and solid reputation. California Casualty insurance products are only available to nurses, educators, firefighters and law enforcement – and not to the general public.

One of the greatest benefits they offer our membership is personalized service. Each County Association has a local California Casualty Representative. This representative is not only knowledgeable about insurance but they understand and care about what we do and our unique needs.

An example of their understanding is covering up to \$500 of your personal safety equipment, including turnout gear, if it's stolen out of your personal vehicle. Other firefighter benefits include: a Fallen Hero Survivor Waiver of Premium Benefit, up to \$2000 coverage for custom equipment on your vehicle; and budget-friendly payment options such as the Holiday Skip Payment Option that offers the choice to skip payments during the winter holiday months.

The MSFA invites you to work with your local California Casualty Representative and assist them with meeting your firefighters. California Casualty Representatives will work with you or your association directly to see how best to deliver this new benefit to our members.

Please contact your local California Casualty Representative to learn more about this new program and how their auto insurance is unique for firefighters:

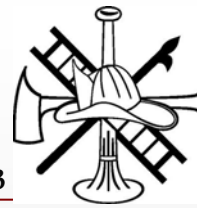
Eastern MD Seaboard	Vic Parker
(302) 463-6556	<a href="mailto:vparker@calcas.com">vparker@calcas.com</a>
Southeast/Northwest MD	Sandra Clemons-Butler
(301) 832-8841	<a href="mailto:scbutler@calcas.com">scbutler@calcas.com</a>

Your support of this valuable member benefit is important. When MSFA members use our sponsored programs, it strengthens our mutually beneficial partnership. California Casualty brings to our membership over 90 years of insurance experience. Along with this level of expertise our members will receive helpful, friendly, dependable service from California Casualty.

The MSFA welcomes you to contact California Casualty to obtain a free no-obligation rate comparison at 866-680-5142 or visit [www.calcas.com/msfa](http://www.calcas.com/msfa).

## Executive Committee Updates—Parsonburg November 12-13

The Safety Committee reported that departments need to check on the shelf life of tires used on their apparatus. Four companies have experienced tire blow outs on their fire apparatus. Michelin reportedly has a shelf life of seven years. The Committee continues to ask each department to complete and submit their Seat Belt Pledges. Frederick and Howard Counties have both reached 100%. Locally, only Mt. Savage and Goodwill have submitted their pledge forms. MD State Law 22.412 require the use of seat belts, both on fire and EMS units. It was noted that on ambulance runs, very seldom do lights/sirens make a difference. Although the public expects to see lights/sirens running while en route to the hospital, it's better to run without them on cardiac arrest calls so providers can do CPR safely. SOP's regarding the use of lights/sirens is being requested for evaluation and can be sent to Cynthia Wright-Johnson. A discussion was held regarding issuing exempt permits for apparatus drivers. An exempt driver is better than a Class A driver as EVOC trains for emergency vehicles and Class A for commercial driving. Minimum training for drivers should include EVOC and HazMat Awareness. It's also suggested to use NFPA 1002 for driving standards as it requires at least five hours of training on each type of apparatus. The committee will next meet January 15, 2012 at MFRI in College Park. (Cont'd on page 12)



## Fire Safety Open House - Winfield VFD

*By: Debbie Gartrell, Prevention & Life Safety Chair; Photos by: Kim Legore*

The following organizations were instrumental in the success of the open house: Prudence Lodge Number 190, Carroll Hospital Center, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Carroll County Health Department, Carroll County Sheriffs, Maryland State Police, Judd Fire Protection, CCVESA & Carroll County Government. Thanks to Fire Captain Greg Dods for arranging an auto extrication demonstration with assistance from A & D Towing. Lee Poole for providing hay rides, MSP and PHI for providing helicopters for the event, MFRI and their Sprinkler trailer to show the importance of residential sprinkler systems, Officer Jeff Partridge & his K-9, Sparky, Miss Fire Preventions, and Bouncin Around for donating the moon bounce for the day. Thanks also to Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule to pay the Winfield Community a visit. Door prizes were provided by the following: Walnut Springs Nursery, Little Professor Book Store - Eldersburg, Martin's Food - Eldersburg, Papa Johns - Eldersburg, Safeway - Eldersburg, Hutchinson's Flower's - Eldersburg, American Red Cross, Carroll County Health Department, Laura Logue and Emma Foltz. Chief Tim Warner and the Miss Fire Preventions also handed out the fire prevention poster contest awards during this event for Winfield's two schools - Linton Springs and Winfield Elementary. No event is possible without the help and dedication of our officers, members, auxiliary and juniors of the WCVFD....thank you! Special thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary who once again provided delicious refreshments for everyone to enjoy. Mark your calendar for next year's open house - November 18, 2012, noon - 3pm.





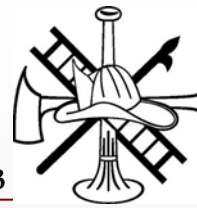
## **Executive Committee Updates Cont'd—Parsonburg November 12-13**

The EMS Committee met and amongst discussions, the Volunteer Ambulance Inspection Program Committee is trying to keep within State, Federal and NFPA standards. Among items discussed, it was noted that trash containers should be secured and closable to contain biohazard materials. They can become missiles in the event of an accident. Portable oxygen bottles need to be secured so they don't fly around and injure anyone in an accident. ALS bags should include a portable sharps container so needles can be disposed of properly. The next meeting of the EMS committee is tentatively scheduled for January 8 at the Pikesville VFC.

William Barnard, MD State Fire Marshal, reported the OSFM has two full-time positions, one a Deputy State Fire Marshal position and the other a Fire Safety Inspector position. Approval was received to fill the Inspector's position; however, the DSFM position must remain vacant to meet turnover requirements. As of October 27, Maryland's 2011 fire-related deaths stand at 40 compared to 51 during the same time period in 2010. In September, the OSFM issued a follow-up news release related to the voluntary recall of pourable fuel gels by the Consumer Products Safety Commission due to extreme safety concerns. Nine manufacturers and distributors agreed to the recall. To date, the CPSC has been made aware of 65 incidents nationwide involving the hazardous effects of refueling fire pots. Four of the 65 incidents occurred in Maryland. Two deaths and 34 known victims have been hospitalized with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns of the face, chest, hands, arms and/or legs. Most injuries were received then the victim attempted to refill the firepot when it appeared the flame was extinguished. Effective October 1, 2011, the OSFM no longer issues permits to smoke alarm manufacturers in order to sell smoke alarms in Maryland. Units sold in Maryland are still required to be listed by an approved testing laboratory in order to meet the requirements of the State Fire Prevention Code. Several fire departments and/or counties are not submitting MFIRS reports to the OSFM in a timely manner. MFIRS reports for each month should be forwarded to the OSFM by the 10th day of the following month.

The Grants Committee reported there were a total of 144 applications submitted from Maryland for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant program this year. Eighty-nine were for Operations and Safety, 51 for vehicles and three regional applications. The Grants Committee/TEAM Maryland assisted with 28 applicants within Maryland as well as North Richland Hills, TX and Midway, NC. Applications were down, nationwide, about 3,000 this year, possibly due to economy/financial match issues. Only 25% of the AFG applications went to Peer Review. The Committee will be working with the Recruitment & Retention Committee on a SAFER application, which are tentatively scheduled to open in December. It is highly encouraged that companies apply for either or both activities under the SAFER grant program.

The Hall of Fame Committee reminds departments that the closing date for nominations for the Hall of Fame and the Marbury F. Gates Service Cup Awards is April 15, 2012. (Cont'd on page 14)



## WARNING FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE: Flexible Corrugated Stainless Steel Gas Pipe Fire Hazard

By: Bruce D. Bouch, Deputy State Fire Marshal, Public Relations and Media Contact

State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard urges all Marylanders with buildings and homes constructed between 1989 – 2009 that have CSST installed, to have the tubing checked for proper bonding/grounding. Marylanders are encouraged to have these systems checked by a qualified and licensed electrician, plumber and/or gasfitter. CSST is a flexible metal gas tubing used in many homes and buildings since 1989. It typically has a yellow outer covering and is used to supply natural gas or propane to furnaces, water heaters and/or other gas appliances. Lightning strikes on or around a structure have been shown to cause an electrical current to travel into the structure and upon reaching the CSST tubing, when not properly bonded/grounded, has in some cases caused a perforation in the sidewall of the tubing as it arcs outward seeking for a ground. This arcing can ignite the pressurized gas leaking from the perforation and in some cases has caused a significant fire. Costs associated with performance of these services vary between service companies. It is suggested to compare prices for this service before selecting a company to perform a safety check of your system.



Since 2009, new or modified installations of CSST have been required to meet the specifications for bonding and grounding as stated in the 2009 NFPA- 54 (7.13.2) National Fuel Gas Code; 2008 NFPA-70 National Electrical Code; and the latest manufacturer's installation requirements. "Although previous installations of Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing prior to 2009 were installed to code requirements at the time of their installation, It is recommended these systems be checked for proper grounding to meet the latest manufacturer's requirements and safety standards found in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes," stated Fire Marshal Barnard.



*This photo depicts a hole created from excessive electrical current after a lightning strike.*

The following link may be used as a guide:

- [http://thecuttingedgellc.com/downloads/CES\\_Bonding\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://thecuttingedgellc.com/downloads/CES_Bonding_Guidelines.pdf)

The following links may be consulted in order to determine the manufacturer's installation requirements:

- [www.wardmfg.com](http://www.wardmfg.com)
- [www.gastite.com](http://www.gastite.com)
- [www.tracpipe.com](http://www.tracpipe.com)
- [www.parker.com/literature/Parflex/4660PGP2T\\_September\\_2007\\_web.pdf](http://www.parker.com/literature/Parflex/4660PGP2T_September_2007_web.pdf)
- [www.tru-flex.com](http://www.tru-flex.com)
- [www.metalfab.com](http://www.metalfab.com)



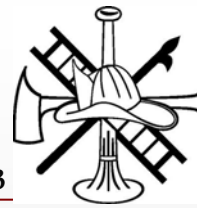
## **Executive Committee Updates Cont'd—Parsonburg November 12-13**

Monte Mitchell, MD DNR, noted there have been a total of 117 wildfires through October burning 8,283 acres. The Western Region has had 20 fires consuming 71.7 acres. Three seasonal firefighter positions were brought back on staff in September and will be on contract until June for the Western, Southern and Eastern Regions. The 2011 VFA grant funds were awarded to 44 volunteer fire departments in 12 counties for \$92,000 in matching funds with a total project cost of \$240,794. Payment has been processed for 19 departments, so far, totaling \$33,336 as of November 3. The remaining fire departments awarded grants will need to submit receipts and copies of checks for the items purchased per their application and a VFA invoice by November 30 to receive their grant reimbursement payment. During 2011, Maryland has provided two 20-person fire crews, nine engine assignments and 14 individual single resource assignments to other states requesting assistance. Recent FEPP acquisitions have assigned utility trucks to Landsdowne VFD, Cedarville State Forest, and Green Ridge Fire Center. A Polaris Ranger UTV and Sportsman 800 ATV were also acquired and assigned in the Eastern Region. A dump truck was also assigned for the Firewise program at Elk Neck State Forest.

Lou Jonske, Ways & Means, reported the Committee has been selling raffle tickets. To date, there has been \$12,561 raised which is \$499 ahead of last year. Last year, 42% of the member companies did not sell one ticket. If a company does not want to purchase their tickets, then pass them out to members. Everyone should remember that proceeds from the raffle helps support the MSFA in many ways. If anyone needs additional tickets, please contact your Executive Board rep. They make great Christmas stocking stuffers! Remember—we have added \$4,200 to the prizes which now total \$16,700. We have also added a 9th and 10th chance to win some cash.

Joe Robison, Federal Legislation Oversight Subcommittee, reported the Public Safety Officer's Benefit (PSOB) Program, as of October 1st, is \$323,035.75 for eligible line of duty death survivors. Joe also notes that while elected officials in Washington have historically supported legislation protecting or benefiting volunteer firefighters and EMS workers, there is currently cost-free legislation relating to one recruitment and retention program that has been languishing in Congress for five years. The proposed legislation (HB 1792/S 3319) would fix technical federal law compliance problems with LOSAP. The Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act, is sponsored by Rep. Peter King (R-NY) in Congress and currently has 24 co-sponsors. The Senate version of the bill is sponsored by Sen. Susan Collin (R-ME) and is co-sponsored by Sen. Charles Shumer (D-NY) and Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT). The volunteer workload has doubled since 1983 and enrollment has continued 5-10% each year. Estimates of the annual amount volunteers save taxpayers approach \$60 billion annually.

Maj. Mark Gibbons, MSP Aviation Command, noted the delivery schedule for the State's new fleet of aircraft remains on schedule. The first aircraft are expected to arrive in the summer of 2012 and will be placed in service immediately upon completion of mission specific training of aircrews, first responders and the specialty referral centers. The MSPAC continues to aggressively recruit internally as well as externally for additional Trooper/Flight Paramedics. Five Trooper/Paramedics are expected to be transferred into Aviation after completing field training and will fill current vacancies.



## MSFA Fall Rural Water Supply Drill

By: Doug Alexander, PIO, Mt. Airy VFD; Rural Water Supply Committee  
 Photos: Jennifer Wilbanks, Photographer, MSFA

Once again, we had a great exercise. The host company, Denton VFD did a terrific job of planning the event and Chief Robert Small from our committee did a great job of coordinating the event. Thanks to all that participated in any way.

We had 60 personnel in attendance from 6 Maryland counties and 1 person from Ohio. We had two tractor trailer tankers, 6 straight tankers, 3 engine/tankers, 6 engines, and 1 water supply support unit in use at the drill.

During the drill personnel flowed a total of 104,500 gallons of water in a 1 hour and 50 minute period for an average of approximately 1,190 gallons per minute. The maximum flow was at 1,254 gallons per minute for the last 35 minutes. Personnel got a bit greedy and ran out of water with 10 minutes left, and though there were 3 tankers that arrived 2-3 minutes after personnel ran out, the decision was made to terminate the drill. The fill sites were approximately 4.1 miles from the dump site making just over an 8 mile loop. The water was dumped into the two tractor trailer tankers then sent through a 2900' of 5" hose relay and two engines to the attack engine.

The safety briefing at 0915 and got the drill going at 1000 hours. Everyone was back at the Denton station for lunch before 1300 hours and the drill was completed by 1330 hours. There were no injuries and no damage to any apparatus. There was one section of hose couplings damaged when hit by a unit, and one section of hose broke during the drill.

There were two fill sites set up and they were fantastic. It is obvious that our personnel have been working hard on their fill site evolutions as all three fill engines were up and running before the first tanker arrived for filling. Most of the tankers were filled and away from the fill sites in 5 minutes or less. A great job at the fill sites by all.

The committee would like to acknowledge and thank Frank Underwood and his daughter Jennifer Wilbanks for attending and taking photos. President Lewis and 1<sup>st</sup> VP Denver also attended and the committee appreciates their support. The committee would like to recognize Chief Parker Browne from the Medina Township Fire Department in Medina, Ohio who is with the Ohio Emergency Response Plan Team. He attended the drill and took in the exercise for the experience and to take back home for possible use there.

Once again, another great drill, or "practice session" if you will. It is so gratifying to see our personnel from areas not close to one another working together towards a common goal, and solving problems with mutual thoughts and ideas. The different approaches to getting the same job done is also an enriching experience for all. Thanks again to all that participated.



## Winter Fire Safety from the Fire Marshal's Office

### County Association Meetings (Dates and Locations Subject to Change)

#### December

1	Anne Arundel - Riviera Beach
1	St. Mary's A&R - PSB
4	Allegany-Garrett - Cresaptown
5	Carroll - County office building
5	Dorchester - Hurlock
6	Wicomico - Allen
9	Kent-Queen Anne's - Millington
12	Charles EMS - Tenth District
12	Calvert - St. Leonard
14	Prince George's - Allentown Road
14	Harford - Joppa Magnolia
14	Somerset - Fairmont
14	Talbot - Easton
14	Worcester - Berlin
15	Baltimore - Middle River Amb
15	Montgomery - Rockville
15	St. Mary's Fire - PSB
15	Washington - Leitersburg
19	Cecil - North East

#### January

2	Carroll - Westminster Fire Dept
5	St. Mary's A&R - PSB
6	Anne Arundel - Arundel
8	Allegany-Garrett - Potomac
9	Calvert - Calvert ALS
9	Charles Fire - Benedict
11	Prince George's - Chillum
11	Somerset -
11	Worcester - Girdletree
13	Harford-Cecil - Charlestown
13	Kent-Queen Anne's -
17	Wicomico -
18	Howard - Elkridge
19	Baltimore - Lutherville
19	Montgomery - Sandy Spring
19	St. Mary's Fire - PSB
19	Washington - Sharpsburg Fire
19	Frederick -
23	Cecil - North East
25	Garrett -
25	Harford - Level
26	Caroline -
30	Southern Maryland - Indian Head

By Bruce D. Bouch, Deputy State Fire Marshal



State Fire Marshal William E. Barnard wants to remind all Marylanders to check for fire safety where they live, where they work and even where they attend classes, trainings and meetings. "Fire and life safety is everyone's responsibility, by testing smoke alarms, keeping exits clear of obstructions and maintaining fire alarms and fire sprinkler systems, we can all avoid injury or death from fire," said the State Fire Marshal.

To ensure your best chances of surviving a fire, the State Fire Marshal offers the following tips on both escaping a fire and preventing one to begin with.

- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are working properly. Remember that the effects of toxic smoke and gases can quickly overcome your ability to think clearly. Every second counts when escaping the ingredients of fire.
- Check exits from both your home and any place you go to ensure you will be able to get to safety. Blocked exits from chairs, tables, holiday decorations and even the school or church play can result delay of getting out quickly and safely.
- When using portable, unvented fuel fired heaters such as kerosene heaters, make sure to only use the recommended fuel specified in the owner's manual and **NEVER use gasoline**. **Note:** Portable kerosene heaters are banned for use in Baltimore City.
- If you find it necessary to use an electric space heater, use only one that has been approved by an authorized testing laboratory such as UL.
- Keep all portable space heaters at least three feet away from anything combustible.
- If heating equipment fails, do not use kitchen stoves or ovens to supply heat. These devices are not designed for that purpose and the chance of a fire improves greatly.
- When using fireplaces, woodstoves or pellet stoves please ensure these heat sources have been installed and properly serviced by trained technicians according to state and local codes, to allow for it to work at peak efficiency and lower the risk of a catastrophic failure.
- Never leave candles burning unattended. Extinguish the flame before leaving the room.
- Prevent fires from starting on the stove by staying in the kitchen and monitoring the food as it is being prepared.
- If you are using a cut tree for Christmas special precautions need to be observed: Select a tree with green needles that do not remove too easily from the branches, the trunk should be sticky to the touch, place the tree in a location away from heat sources and add water every day during the recommended two week life on display.
- Inspect holiday lighting for frayed or damaged wiring and check for cracked sockets. Even though it is very tempting, do not leave lights on overnight or while you are away.

If you have anything you would like to submit for publication please do so to the editor at Amber Leizear, Editor  
Volunteer Trumpet  
trumpet@msfa.org