

TFACA Newsletter September 2014

A Note From Roger Hawks, Executive Director

"Not a museum, a Training Academy"

Recently Fire Director Elliott and I were attending the annual conference of the North American Fire Training Directors. This conference provides updates from fire service agencies and vendors showing their new wares. While updating the group on upcoming changes at the National Fire Academy, Superintendent Dr. Dennis Onieal made a statement which rang home with most of those in attendance. He stated "we are not a museum we are a training academy...".

I find visiting a museum is a great experience. It gives the opportunity to look at things the way they were during an earlier period and wonder what it was like to live in the period of time we are visiting. Sometimes we think of these as the good ole days...

Dr. Onieal's statement rings true to present day training. The fire service is on the edge of new technology and scientific data which challenges many of the "truths" those of us late in our careers were trained. While many will challenge the data or the technology by making statements like "that wasn't the way we were trained..." then leading to a discussion on the way things were many years ago. Training was different in those days long ago. Training academies burned fuels such as diesel or jet fuel in the "pit" where columns of smoke could be seen for miles. The hotter the fire the better; and structures were built of material made of wood with dimensions such as 2"x 12". While the furnishings were made with cotton and wood or some similar class A materials. We were taught we had 20 minutes to work at a fire before the fear of structural collapse was a concern.

Today, the content of most residential buildings are built with glue, wood byproducts and plastics. The time line for structural collapse can be as low at 3 to 5 minutes and the gases being produced are more toxic than we have ever dealt with. What does this mean to training you might ask.

Firefighters must train differently than we did years ago. Codes officials must learn new technology and modern day materials being used in the construction of new buildings. Doing so is vital to the safety of the public as well as those responding.

TFACA's staff is training students to national standards and sharing information on the newest equipment; data and trends. It is our mission and our obligation to our students to give them all the knowledge and skills needed to be safe while working to improve our communities.

Training Tennessee's Finest



Upcoming Classes & Events

Upper Cumberland Weekend
October 11-12, 2014

East TN Fire Rescue Conference
October 11-12, 2014

TN River Weekend
November 1-2, 2014

November 6-7, 2014
November 8-9, 2014
TFACA

See website for dates and locations

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“Get Alarmed” Update

NASHVILLE – The State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) is on a mission to prevent home fire deaths in Tennessee! Using grant funds awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the SFMO purchased 20,000 smoke alarms to be distributed to fire departments and installed in at-risk homes across the state as part of their Get Alarmed program. The response to this effort was so great that the SFMO has purchased an additional 18,000 alarms to keep the program going.

In order to receive these 10-year battery smoke alarms, fire departments need to access the SFMO’s train-the-trainer course on smoke alarm installation. Fire departments that do not have the staff resources to install the alarms are encouraged to present the training course to civic/ church/community service groups in their area and designate a portion of their alarm supply to that group for installation within the community. It is important to note that the goal of this program is not to simply hand out alarms, but to install the devices in homes in need across the state while also educating residents on fire safety measures.

The program also allows fire departments to receive, while supplies last, a limited amount of bed shaker alarms designed specifically for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Priority for these specialty alarms is given to those who cannot afford to purchase the devices on their own.

If your department is interested in participating in the state’s Get Alarmed program, please contact Claire Marsalis with the State Fire Marshal’s Office at 615-532-5847 or claire.marsalis@tn.gov. Members of the public interested in smoke alarm installations should first contact their local fire department, as many of these departments may already have smoke alarms available through this program.

The Get Alarmed program has been credited with saving the lives of 53 Tennesseans so far, demonstrating that working smoke alarms can and will save lives. To date, there have been 27,300 alarms installed in 12,134 homes throughout the state. The State Fire Marshal’s Office wants all Tennesseans to have these vital devices in their homes. To learn more about smoke alarms, visit <http://www.tn.gov/fire/documents/homesmokealarms.pdf>.

This information is courtesy of the State Fire Marshal’s Office.



Patch Board

TFACA has a patch board in the Classroom building and is seeking TN Fire Department patches. We would love to add your patch to the board so send us one or give it to any TFACA staff member and we will see it gets posted.

Goals of the Academy

To enhance the safety of every Tennessean from the hazards of fires, natural disasters and terrorist acts, by providing state-of-the-art training to fire fighters, other emergency first responders and codes enforcement personnel.

To deliver our training in an affordable diversified format, so as to serve the needs of both urban and rural students.

To develop partnerships with both public and private sector organizations to facilitate the furtherance of our mission.

RECENT EVENTS AT TFACA

TN Fallen Firefighters Memorial



Firefighters, family members and friends from all over gathered at the TN Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy on September 6 for the annual Day of Honor and Remembrance ceremony to honor those firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect their neighbors from fire. Typically, the firefighters' names that are added to the memorial plaques are those who died in the line of duty during the previous calendar year. This year saw a new grouping of firefighters added to list—firefighters from TN who died while on military fire duty—as well as two firefighters identified from past years. In total, 6 new names were added to the memorial this year:

- Staff Sgt. Millard Bledsoe (USAF – 1968)
- Luther Miller True (Spring City FD – 1977)
- Dennis Wayne McCloud (Chattanooga FD – 1980)
- Robert M. Weber, Jr. (USMC – 2004)
- Richard J. Floersch (Milan FD – 2013)
- David M. Schnepf (Carters Valley VFD – 2013)

Because of the inherent dangers associated with the firefighting profession, the theme of the weekend—*Everyone Goes Home*—was fitting. Achieving the goal of reducing the number of preventable firefighter fatalities is a group undertaking. I leave you with some words of wisdom from Helen Keller for you to consider: "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."



Annual Firehouse Barbecue

On September 15, 2014, TFACA hosted the annual Firehouse BBQ with approximately 350 people attending. The money raised helps local fire departments purchase smoke alarms for the community. The event featured great food, live entertainment and door prizes. Make plans to join us next year!!

In-Service Training Information

Having difficulty determining what training is needed during monthly training or need some help with instruction of some complex areas of your monthly training program? TFACA will be glad to help! TFACA offers assistance meeting training requests for short duration classes for local departments. If you don't have the training staff or just need assistance scheduling and executing the drills, we can help. This new program will allow TFACA to be your in-service and monthly training partner. We are still working on the finalization for this project, but if this ability to assist you is of interest please give us a call. Both Fire Service & Codes Enforcement programs are prepared to discuss assisting you in meeting recertification hours, in-service training for educational incentives, and ISO monthly training. We look forward to helping you meet your training needs.

Academy Mission Statement

To plan, deliver and facilitate education and training that promotes professionalism and competency of fire service and codes enforcement personnel through a standardized statewide program, thereby enhancing the individual and collective ability to protect life and property of Tennessee citizens.

**TFACA is
your
state
source
for NFA,
Fire and
Codes
Training**

Need Assistance ?

TFACA can help. TFACA can provide assistance to Departments who need help developing practical examinations for Driver Operator, Fire Officer and other positions. The Fire Academy can also provide assistance with vehicle specifications and equipment review and research.

For additional information or to discuss how we can help, please contact Roger Hawks or Jeff Elliott.

A Note From Jeff Elliott, Fire Program Director

A 10 week recruit training program began on campus on Sept 8 with 22 students from all across the State. Departments represented are Humboldt Fire Dept, Franklin Fire Dept, Hendersonville Fire Dept, New Union Fire Dept, Hickman County Fire & Rescue, Manchester Fire Dept, Normandy Fire Dept, Galatin Fire Dept, Milan Fire Dept, Martin Fire Dept, Hickerson Station Fire Dept, Dickson Fire Dept, and 4 Open Enrollees representing the Cities of Lebanon, Chattanooga, Tullahoma and Shelbyville.

This class is the second to utilize the new curriculum put in place in early 2014, which combines lecture with online components which allows students to interact with the lecture and brings additional learning opportunities to the student. There has been a significant increase in hands on skills development due to the ability of the student to utilize the efolio, and homework assignments done online. Physical training is conducted every day by a peer fitness trainer, focusing on training the body to work in the environment of a firefighter, focusing on the muscle groups that are needed on every activity that is needed for firefighting, building coordination and balance.

The course is designed to deliver the basic level of firefighter I/II covering all of the core subjects, as well as, Hazardous Materials Operations, Vehicle Extrication and Live Fire training. Additionally, the Firefighter Recruit students will receive training in the National Near Miss Reporting System, Firefighter Survival, Calling the MayDay, "Courage to be Safe", SIDS, Domestic Violence Awareness, Electrical Emergencies presented by Duck River Electric, TailWatch presented by Vanderbilt Life Flight, and educated on how to respond to the needs of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community.

Each class is given an assignment at the beginning of the program to visit the Tennessee Fallen Firefighters Memorial, and to choose a name. In week 7, the student is to give a presentation to the class, and guest, on how their chosen firefighter's LODD impacted the families, Departments, and Communities. The result is, the student develops a bond with that firefighter, and strengthens his/her commitment to the 16 Firefighter Initiatives and gives each an understanding of the importance of "Everyone Goes Home". There have been numerous outstanding presentations in past classes, and each firefighter who participates with the LODD presentations will never forget the experience of helping others by remembering the Fallen and honoring their memory by educating fellow firefighters and not becoming a name on a plaque.



Conducting Live Fire Evolutions

NFPA 1403 Conducting Live Fire Evolutions class will be delivered during the firefighter recruit live burn November 3-4. This is an opportunity for fire service instructors to gain knowledge on the proper way to conduct live fire training with real students under actual live fire training situations. The training consist of 8 hours of classroom lecture on procedures, legal matters, rehab, and logistics, and 8 hours of hands on with students during live fire.



Commission Approved In-Service

TFACA announces that 3 new, Commission Approved In-service classes, have been developed and ready for delivery in your department. These courses are 4 hour blocks of "Modern Single Family Dwelling Fire Attack", "Reading Smoke" and "Thermal Imaging". Each course can be delivered for the cost of \$200 per class.

Contact TFACA or your regional Coordinator to schedule training for your needs.

TFACA 931-294-4111

Region 1 and 2 East Tennessee - Jason Sparks 423-341-3101

Region 3 Middle Tennessee - Daryl Newport 615-425-6007

Region 4, West Tennessee - Wayne Morris 931-294-4182.

Modern Single Family Dwelling Fire Attack

Safe and effective firefighting requires a complex thought process. It is not a simple matter of "how to." Decisions depend on many factors, from the type of building, to the likelihood of occupancy, to the water supply. This class prepares the fire officer and firefighters to approach modern residential structure fires, fully utilizing available resources in a safe and effective manner. The goal of this class is to heighten the awareness of the dangers of today's residential structures and make better tactical decisions.

Reading Smoke

Reading the Smoke reviews the definition and warning signs associated with 5 hostile fire events: Rollover, Backdrafts, Flashover, Smoke Explosion and Building Collapse. The course then transitions to establishing the basis as to why Incident Commanders should read smoke in today's structures filled with low mass and high synthetic fuel loads. This course will identify what smoke consists of, the four key attributes of smoke and the process involved with reading smoke. The students will then have the opportunity to practice reading the smoke using actual fire footage.

Thermal Imaging

Safe and effective emergency response requires a complex thought process enhanced with training, experience and resources. This thermal imaging class prepares the responder to be more proficient using thermal imagers yielding safer scenes. The goal of this class is to present proven applications using thermal imagers, point out limitations of thermal imagers and help the student properly interpret what the imager is displaying.

A Note From Stephen Snow, Codes Program Director

Do you remember the great time you had in Pigeon Forge last year at the TFACA Codes Conference? Or maybe you didn't get to attend last year, but wished you had. Well it's time again to call the Academy and register for the 2014 TFACA Codes Conference being held December 11 - 12.

This year, in addition to the Building Inspection topics we typically present, we are emphasizing Fire Inspection classes to meet more training needs of TN Inspectors. There is plenty of overlap between these codes, which any inspector will find useful and inviting. Each of the half-day sessions we will present are sure to provide the variety and interest our students have come to expect, and we are confident everyone will find training that meets their needs.

Choose up to four of the classes we are developing for this year's conference:

CB212-00	Bearing Soils and Foundation Types
CE214-00	Coaching Contractors in IECC Residential
CR211-00	Mold Properties and Prevention
CB213-01	Fundamentals of Concrete
CF218-01	NFPA 14 Standpipe and Hose Systems
CB214-00	'12 Egress Essentials for Fire and Codes Inspectors
CF225-01	Courtesy Inspections for Firefighters
CB215-00	Reading Plans is Easy

Even if you can attend only one day, or just one class, we'll be glad to see you. Of course we hope everyone would choose to participate both days; that's up to 14 credit hours! Either way, just being part of a crowd of familiar faces will be the best part of the conference. Please call **(800) 747-8868** right away to register early and reserve your space, or go online via the following link:

<http://www.tn.gov/fire/tfaca/documents/Registration.pdf>

Remember, it will be Christmastime in Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, so bring a co-worker for an enjoyable conference, and bring your family for an exciting winter getaway! We'll let you out in plenty of time to enjoy the Smokies!

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

Thomas A. Edison

Training Tennessee's Finest



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Don't see it in the catalog?

Have a training need that isn't in the catalog? Give us a call, we may be able to tailor a custom class to meet your specific needs.

Some of our custom courses include:

- Team Building Training
- Specifications and Purchasing
- New Vehicle Orientation Training
- Fire Service Leadership
- Fire Service Ethics



Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance. Authorization No. 335412, electronic version only, July 2014. This public document was promulgated at a total cost of \$280.²⁰.