

TFACA NEWSLETTER

A Note From Roger Hawks, Executive Director

Winter hasn't slowed the training requests coming into TFACA. Our staff is working hard to keep up with those requests which are outpacing last years, a record year for us. Thank you for allowing TFACA to assist in meeting your training needs.

Here's what's ahead this year:

A purchase order has been issued for our AFG, grant funded, Mobile Training Tower with Riverside Metalcraft Inc. as the successful bidder. The tower will be 3.5 stories and have multi scenario capability including bailouts, hose lines, confined spaces, drafting capability and many more. Delivery is expected in early summer. We believe this addition to our mobile training capacity will benefit departments across the state.

TFACA has once again been awarded an AFG grant. The request for a Mobile Forcible Entry prop will add a new dimension to our mobile training opportunities. There will be more information to come as we work through the details.

TFACA on line training continues to add new students weekly. The classes can be accessed using the Acadis portal. To complete the classes you must be logged into the portal. Then select the "Training & Events" tab. There you will select "Browse or sign up for training." This will take you to the schedule where on line classes are the first items listed. Select "Assign" then assign it to you and complete the class. More classes will be added in the future.

Training Officer, need a quick review of skills or a topic for daily training? If so, check out our new section on our website titled "Quick Skills Training". It is under the **Scheduled Courses & Registration Forms** section. We hope you can use this section to assist you in meeting a few of your training hour requirements. We will be adding more subjects and revising current curriculum throughout the year.

Upcoming Events at TFACA



On June 4, 2016 TFACA will be hosting the "Fired Up 'n Fit" 5K Adventure Race and 1-mile Adventure Kids Course. The race benefits the United Way of Bedford County with a portion of the proceeds also benefiting the TN Fallen Firefighter's Memorial. For more information go to firedupnfit.org.

A Note From Jeff Elliott, Fire Program Director

2015 found the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy setting all-time records for the number of students enrolled, number of classes taught and number of departments exceeding 1,000 or more contact hours. These records were largely the result of TFACA taking a new role in offering in-service type training. The first year we focused on bringing more situational awareness to scene safety. TFACA wanted to produce safer incidents by offering Modern Residential Fire Attack, Reading Smoke and Thermal Imaging for the Fire Service.

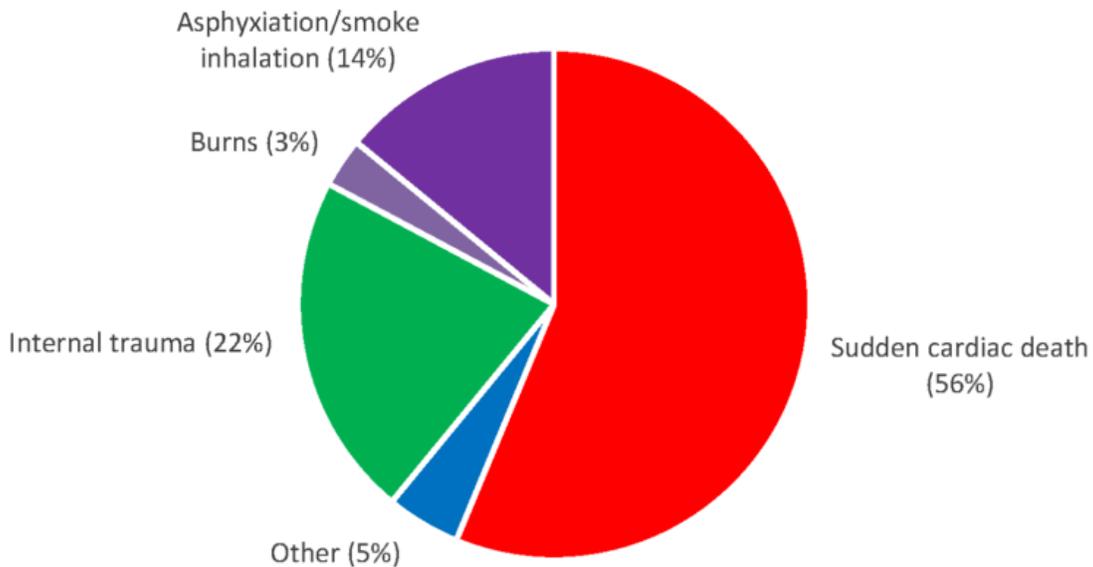
For 2016, TFACA is very excited to be offering a new series of classes to bring more attention to the health and wellness of today's firefighters. Classes addressing the ever growing concerns challenging today's Modern Fire Service have been developed and approved by the TN Commission on Firefighting. Firefighter Cancer Awareness, Behavioral Health, Medical Monitoring and Rehabilitation are being introduced. In addition to these classes we are also introducing a Hazardous Materials Class, Highway Emergencies, and continue to see a demand for the Emergency Driving Simulator.

Skidmore College has received FEMA grants to research the cause of cardiac deaths among firefighters. The results of their research provided much of the content for this article and our medical monitoring curriculum. (The leading cause of death for firefighters during fire suppression work is cardiac events; not becoming trapped or injured by heat and smoke.)

National estimates suggest that firefighters spend about 1 percent of their time fighting fires, and yet about 30 percent of their fatalities occur during fire suppression activities.

Today's firefighters are exposed to numerous life-threatening dangers, including high temperatures, flames, smoke, hazardous chemicals, and unstable structures. Despite these dangers, the physiological strain, specifically cardiovascular strain, associated with firefighting poses the greatest threat to the life and health of a firefighter. The cardiovascular strain associated with firefighting is a major safety concern because it can lead to sudden cardiac events in vulnerable individuals with underlying disease. This contributes to fatigue and the impaired performance in all firefighters.

Firefighter Line of Duty Deaths: 2014



In order to better understand factors that contribute to cardiovascular strain, the twin challenges of heat stress and dehydration that firefighters face have to be studied. Heat stress is a universal and well-recognized concern in firefighting. Dehydration has important implications for firefighters because it affects both performance and cardiovascular activity, and it often develops undetected by the firefighter.

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A Note From Jeff Elliott, Fire Program Director (cont.)

Heat stress (created by wearing PPE and performing work) increases cardiac and thermal strain during work, and this strain is further increased by dehydration. Heat stress conditions cause significant increases in myocardial work and a decrease in markers of perfusion, which may be indicative of ischemia.

Furthermore, increased vascular stiffness may contribute to increased cardiac strain. In light of these findings, firefighters should aggressively combat their familiar enemy heat stress on the fire ground. Although firefighters are familiar with heat stress, it can have severe consequences.

Additionally, while dehydration may not be readily apparent, it nonetheless compounds the problems associated with heat stress, and should be avoided. The detrimental effects of heat stress and dehydration can be mitigated in part by proper medical screening, adherence to a physical fitness program, monitoring hydration status, and implementing incident scene rehabilitation.

As a leader in education and training, TFACA is eager to bring more awareness to the Health and Wellness of TN Firefighters as we begin our 2016 training year.

References:

NIOSH

Close Calls

First Responder Health & Safety Laboratory Health & Exercise Sciences **Skidmore College**



Fire Inspector I



We had our third very successful Fire Inspector I class that completed with TN Fire Commission testing on February 26th 2016. Those who have passed this exam will be certified by the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting, IFSAC and Pro Board as a Fire Inspector I, and will be able to obtain ICC and/or NFPA Fire Inspector Certifications. This was a two-week class began with an immersion in the International Fire Code, International Building Code and the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code. The class then worked its way through the Jones & Bartlett Fire Inspector Principals and Practice curriculum that teaches sound inspection methodology. After hours of dedicated study coupled with practical applications and exercises, these inspectors are now prepared to enhance the safety of their communities.

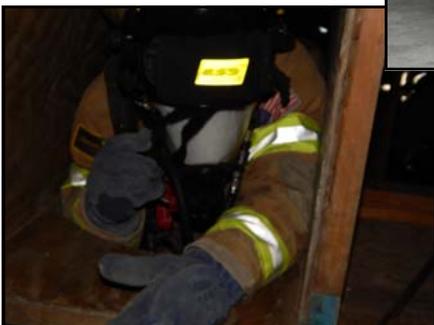


Recruit Firefighter Class 2016-01

The 2016-01 Recruit Class is in full swing, beginning on February 8th, and the students are learning the importance of time management. The students have already encountered 17 subjects with 3 tests and case study assignments on top of an already day to day demanding physically and skill based assessment program. The following weeks will prove just as tough with Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations Classes and testing along with Survival, Extrication, and Live Fire training. Recruits are tested on a weekly basis to ensure they have retained knowledge throughout the grueling schedule.

The class is composed of firefighters from 11 different agencies, Hendersonville, Shelbyville, Cookeville, Paris, Milan, Hillsboro, Claxton, White House Community, Bedford Co., and Mountain Fire and Rescue. This class also has one student from Franklin-Simpson, Kentucky. Instructors and students have been moving at an extreme pace to meet all the NFPA 1001 and 472 standards, and to give students a real simulated feel for fire ground operations. The addition of conducting labs and skills into the curriculum has proven effective; by allowing these students more hands on training time and to provide students an opportunity to be an operative leader. The instructors form three shifts, and are led by appointed students. This model permits students to act as officers and allows for the opportunity and empowerment of students to get used to the day to day operations of the fire station.

Instructors are always very excited to showcase the knowledge and skills of the recruits in the following weeks, proving they have what it takes to complete the program. The class will conclude and graduate on April 15, 2016, finishing the 400 hour program.





A Note From Stephen Snow, Codes Enforcement Program Director

2015 PIGEON FORGE CONFERENCE

Gone, but not forgotten, is the 2015 TFACA Codes Conference we held in Pigeon Forge. Without a doubt, this was the best conference we've held yet. While classes were held in the same location, students enjoyed upgraded classrooms with plenty of room to move around. Good thing too, because this year we had a record high attendance with 70 participants! And as promised, we presented practical courses delivered by several new instructors. As we said goodbye to the students, they overwhelmingly expressed their satisfaction with the training they received. If you missed being with us at the conference, plan on being with us next December. It will be better than ever!

STRONG CAMPUS AND FIELD CLASSES

Since the TFACA Codes Conference, we have been busy producing classes both on our campus in Bell Buckle and throughout the state. Our class attendance continues to grow and remains strong as we've seen in the recent classes held in Elizabethton, Jackson and Athens just to name a few; and the best news is cancellations are quickly becoming a thing of the past. Increasingly, fewer students are being told that the academy class they wish to attend has been canceled. This has always been a primary goal of the Codes Program and we're proud to say it is becoming a new reality!

IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Additionally, we've coordinated our In-Service Training Programs with several jurisdictions such as Brentwood, Bristol, Jackson, Athens, Ashland City, and Maryville with more being added as officials learn of the quality and convenience of regularly-scheduled classes offered in their own department meeting room! We are always ready to add other groups to this list, so please contact us to make this happen for you as well.

CHAPTER AND ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

We're particularly honored that several organizations and ICC Chapters have opened their doors to us and have allowed us to become involved in their meetings and training efforts. We enjoy a warm relationship with UETBOA and attended their annual conference in the fall of last year, and even conducted training in one of their sessions. MTCOA graciously invited us to meet with them at their Christmas Luncheon, and this month we attended their monthly training in Franklin. TFSIA welcomed us in Murfreesboro for their annual conference, and we recently attended the Fire Chiefs' Conference as well. Most recently we were involved in the ETBOA Annual Training Event in Sevierville, and were allowed to present one of our courses to their members. We try to attend as many monthly meetings as possible conducted by all groups so, if you have a group and not seen us in a while, please let us know the details of your next meeting and we'll make plans to get involved.

We would love to become involved in every inspection-related group for the common goal of bringing all members of the inspection trade closer together.

RESIDENTIAL INSPECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

And now for some news on the horizon: Deputy Commissioner Gary West understands the need to be ahead of the curve to prevent a shortage of qualified residential inspectors as we move into the next decade. Everyone agrees that the majority of current building inspectors in TN will be leaving the inspection trade, which will create a huge need for inspectors who will be expected to perform with the same expertise as those who have gone before them. We are currently developing a program to prepare individuals to meet that need. This extensive training is being designed for those who have construction experience, as well as those without a construction background such as graduating high school students who want to become inspectors, or military veterans looking to start a new career. Be looking for more news on this in the coming months!



Other TFACA News

NEW CODES INSTRUCTORS ADDED

We would like to welcome Chuck Swann, Michael Blanks and John Rodgers to the TFACA Codes Program as Adjunct Instructors. Chuck Swann retired from the Hendersonville Fire Department, where he served as Fire Marshal. Mr. Swann is developing and teaching fire codes related classes, and is currently delivering classes on Assembly Occupancies across the state. Mr. Blanks is the Building Official for the City of Mount Juliet and will be developing and teaching building codes related classes. He recently taught an IBC module to the Fire Inspector I Class. John Rodgers is a Captain / Fire Inspector with the Knoxville Fire Department and holds a Master's Degree and working toward his Doctorate. Mr. Rodgers will be developing and teaching fire code and life safety classes.

TWO FULL-TIME INSTRUCTOR POSITIONS

By now most of you have experienced the new standard of excellence the Codes Program provides. However, none of this excitement would be possible without the commitment and integrity of our instructors. They are the face of our program, and their effort and creativity are the reasons you "enjoy" our training, instead of simply having to "endure" it. As we have grown though it has become critical to add two new Full-Time Instructor Positions to meet the increasing demand for our training. Do you have the talent and experience to fill one of these roles? Or do you know of someone who would be perfect for this job? Are you retiring soon from the inspection trade, and want to share your knowledge with others? We are hoping to interview candidates who are experienced in either building or fire inspection, and for the benefit of our students we expect our instructors to know how to use the codes. We will be posting these positions in the near future and looking forward to welcoming these two individuals into our growing team!

2016 Fire Chief Orientation Schedule

8/6/16-8/7/16	Madison County FD
10/8/16-10/9/16	NE State Community College
11/17/16-11/18/16	TFACA
11/19/16-11/20/16	TFACA

He who is not everyday conquering some fear has not learned the secret of life.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



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