

**Fire Rescue Commission Meeting
Kernersville FD
Kernersville, NC**

July 11, 2023

Member Attendees:	Harley Cook, Chair Freddy Johnson Walter Gardner Gary Whitman Brian Taylor	Ryan Cole Andy Thomas Tim Henshaw Josh Smith	Robert Poe Kevin Gordon Steve Roberson Vernon Massengill
--------------------------	--	---	---

Others present: Monna Gillespie, Brian Wade, Chris Decker

Welcome and call to order – Harley Cook 10:00 AM

Invocation – Harley Cook

Ethics Statement – Harley Cook

Approval of Agenda as presented- Walter Gardner moved to approve the agenda. Ryan Cole seconded. Motion approved.

Approval of January 10, 2023 minutes – Robert Poe made a motion to approve the April 11, 2023 minutes. Gary Whitman seconded. Motion approved.

Elections

Nominations for Chair – Harley Cook (Robert Poe moved to nominate Harley Cook. Ryan Cole 2nd.) No other nominations. Harley Cook was approved.

Nominations for Vice Chair – Freddy Johnson (Ryan Cole moved to nominate Freddy Johnson. Vernon Massengill 2nd.) and Robert Poe (Gary Whitman moved to nominate Robert Poe. Walter Gardner 2nd.) Freddy Johnson was approved.

Appointments:

Freddy Johnson, as Vice Chair, appointed Jason Davis to the CFI Board.

Cert Board: Tim Pennell replacement from the NC Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services – Nominations was Malcom Smith and Wes Blackwelder. Robert Poe spoke highly of both gentlemen. Gary Whitman moved to approve Malcom Smith to replace Tim Pennell on the Certification Board. Ryan Cole 2nd. Approved.

CFI Board: Donald Wallace replacement from the NC State Fire Marshal – Nominations were Buddy Thompson and Brian Kelly. Freddy Johnson moved to nominate Buddy Thompson. Gary Whitman 2nd. Approved.
Replacement for Matthew Davis from the NC State Bureau of Investigations – D.R. Burkett. Freddy moved to approve D.R. Burkett. Ryan Cole 2nd. Approved.

Board Reports

North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission Meeting, July 11, 2023

Certification Board - Chair Kevin Gordon

Terry Foxx is new Chair of the Cert Board and Derrick Clouston was appointed to the Vice -Chair position.

NFPA – TR update

Request from an incarnated for their transcript. Jailed on a felony. Discussion

Discussion on NFPA 1006 Policy – (See attached.)

Freddy Johnson moved to approve 2023 TR proposal as presented. Josh Smith 2nd. Approved.

Felony – Cert Board recommendation for change to their 200-08 Policy. Adopt the OEMS policy until the Boards have something better in place.

A. Background check

Pre-determination Process

B. Fire Arson background check

Correction on numbering on policy. (See attached)

Discussion.

Gary Whitman moved to approve this policy. Ryan Cole 2nd. Approved.

Discussion on 2 felony cases.

Vernon Massengill moved to certify both individuals. Ryan Cole 2nd. Approved.

Workers Comp – Mike Hill

Met virtually on June 19th. Still collecting premiums.

CFI Board – Freddy Johnson

CFI Board cancelled July 5th meeting. Held meeting on July 26th. Finalizing CFI test.

New Business

None

Agency Reports

OSFM Report – Brian Taylor

New office update – Staff eported back to office on July 5th at the Rock Quarry office. Discussed the Legislative Budget as far as OSFM becoming independent of DOI to a degree. Stanley County Training Center is in the designing phase. New OSFM office staff is David Morris, Chris Decker and Kevin Gordon. All positions are full at this time.

Brian Taylor requested that rules be submitted and be discussed at the next meeting and be placed on the agenda. Harley Cook approved. Kevin Gordon will still chair that committee but under his OSFM duties.

NCSFA – Tim Bradley - See Attachment

Association of Rescue & EMS – Robert Poe – See Attachment

Association of Fire Chiefs – Wes Hutchins – See Attachment

Department of Community Colleges – Kenny Wetherington

Wrapped up Spring semester, data error clean up still ongoing, Working to push TR completion

Emergency Management – None

Society of Fire/Rescue Instructors – Nothing

Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of NC – Josh Smith

Josh informed the board that Scott Mullins had accepted a position as State & Policy Director and moved to DC. Scott would like to stay on the F&R Commission Board.

Dept of Labor –Cory Dunphy - See Attachment

OEMS – None

Forestry – None

Dept of Justice – Teresa Postell – See Attachment

Other Business

Ryan Cole presented letter from April meeting from Attorney Stein = question to Teresa Postell.

Josh Smith moved to adjourn at 11:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Monna Gillespie

Appointment by Vice Chair of F&R Commission Board - replacement of Ken Hair on the CFI Board.

Cert Board Appointments:

NC Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Service, Inc – replacement for Tim Pennell

1. Malcom Smith
2. Wes Blackwelder

CFI Board Appointments:

State Fire Marshal Association - replacement for Donald Banks

1. Buddy Thompson
2. Brian Kelly

NC State Bureau of Investigations – Replacement for Matthew Davis

1. D.R. Burkett

FROM: Freddy L. Johnson Sr., Chairman CFIB
Certified Fire Investigator Board
1202 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

TO: Chief Kevin Gordon, Vice-Chair,
Fire and Rescue Commission
1202 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

DATE: June 30, 2023

REF: FRC Vice-Chair CFIB Appointment

Dear Vice-Chairman Gordon: 

I am writing enthusiastically to recommend Battalion Chief Jason Davis as a strong candidate to fill the vacancy created on the Certified Fire Investigator Board (CFIB) with the retirement of Fire Chief Ken Hair, back in April of this year.

I believe that Chief Davis's extensive fire investigation background and credentials make him an excellent choice for this role. Chief Davis has proved himself as an exceptional fire investigator leading his departments Fire Investigation Team (FIT). His dedication to the field and commitment to excellence have earned him recognition as a North Carolina Certified Fire Investigator (CFI). Therefore, his knowledge, skills and experience in fire investigation make him a valuable asset for the CFIB, where he can contribute effectively to the growth and our mission. He possesses excellent communication skills, is well-versed in our current North Carolina fire investigation practices, regulations, rules, and laws.

Given the recent retirement of Chief Ken Hair, and the willingness of Chief Davis to serve, I firmly believe that Chief Jason Davis is the appropriate choice for the Fire and Rescue Commission's Vice-Chair Appointment. If you require additional information or references regarding his candidacy, please do not hesitate to contact me at 910-476-1301 Cell or fjohnsonsr@stoneypointfire.com

Thank you for considering my recommendation. I am confident that Chief Davis will make a significant impact on the CFIB if given the opportunity.

Sincerely,


Freddy L. Johnson Sr.
CFIB Chair

2 Enclosures
1 – Jason Davis Correspondence
2. Jason Davis – Resume



North Carolina Association of Rescue
and
Emergency Medical Services, Inc.

P.O. Box 1914

Goldsboro, North Carolina 27533-1914

Telephone: (919) 736-0506 • Fax: (919) 736-7759 • E-mail: ncarems@ncarems.org

Website: www.ncarems.org

June 29, 2023

C. Harley Cook, Chairman
NC Fire & Rescue Commission
1201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1201

Re: NCAREMS Appointment to the Fire and Rescue Commission - Certification Board

Recently Tim Pennell, NCAREMS representative to the Fire & Rescue Commission - Certification Board resigned. We are required to submit to you a minimum of two nominations for consideration for each position. The Commander of the Association, Hervy Kornegay Jr would like to submit Malcolm Smith and Wes Blackwelder for consideration. We would prefer that Malcolm Smith be appointed for remainder of term left vacant due to Tim Pennell's departure. Attached with this letter will be the resumes as requested for our nominations.

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward these nominations for consideration.

Yours in Rescue,

Joel Faircloth
Executive Director



NORTH CAROLINA FIRE MARSHAL'S ASSOCIATION
"Dedicated to the Saving of Life and Property Through Fire Prevention"

NC Fire Marshals'
Association
PO Box 9494
Hickory, NC 28603

PRESIDENT
Brian Kelly

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Tim Henshaw

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Charles Eldridge

TREASURER
Thomas Raper

SECRETARY
Brittany Hocutt

CHAPLAIN
Thomas Bender

PAST-PRESIDENT
Adam Cloninger

EX-OFFICIO
Brian Taylor
Jason Shepherd

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2023
Tony Smart (E)
Tom Bender (C)
Wesley Graham (W)

2024
Buddy Thompson (E)
Bobby Carmon (C)
Amy Flieg (W)

To: Chief Freddie Johnson,
Chairman, NC CFI Board

From: Brian Kelly
President North Carolina Fire Marshals Association (NCFMA)

Re: NCFMA Recommendations for NC CFI Board

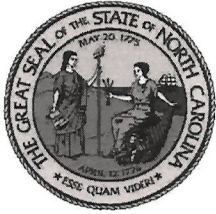
Chief Johnson,

In compliance with fulfilling our duties to provide a representative to the NC CFI Board, our board of directors met on June 14, 2023, in Fayetteville North Carolina, and acted on this matter.

It was the opinion of the Board of Directors that our selection would be Buddy Thompson, Eastern Director and Deputy Fire Chief of Carolina Beach Fire Department as our representative. Mr. Thompson is an NC CFI and has a desire and willingness to serve in this capacity. In compliance with the rules of the NC CFI Board, we would supply me (Brian Kelly) as an alternate however it is respectfully requested that our primary selection of Mr. Thompson be honored, and he serve the term effective August 2023. We look forward to the outcome of the selection process and look forward to the work provided for our members in the future.

With warmest regards and respectfully submitted,

Brian Kelly
NCFMA President
2023-2025



**ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR**

**NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**3320 Garner Road
P.O. BOX 29500
Raleigh, NC 27626-0500
(919) 662-4500
FAX: (919) 662-4523**



**ROBERT SCHURMEIER
DIRECTOR**

June 27, 2023

MEMORANDUM

To: Board Chairman F. Johnson
From: Assistant Special Agent in Charge M. M. Holder
Subject: Special Agent D. R. Burkett - Membership on CFIB

Please consider this letter as a recommendation to add Special Agent D. R. Burkett as a member of the State's Certified Fire Investigator Board. SA Burkett was hired by the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation in August of 2021. SA Burkett was a graduate of the 52nd NCSBI Special Agent Academy.

SA Burkett came to the bureau with a wealth of knowledge from his previous place of employment, Lenoir County Emergency Services and Lenoir County Sheriff's Office. During SA Burkett's career with Lenoir County he served as Fire Marshal, Lenoir County Deputy Sheriff and an Emergency Management Planner. During SA Burkett's employment with Lenoir County he served as a Deputy Sheriff for approximately six years. Prior to SA Burkett becoming a Deputy Sheriff he served as a Lenoir County Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Planner. SA Burkett was tasked with investigating origin and cause of fires both intentional and accidental fires for approximately ten years.

SA Burkett holds his International Association of Arson Investigators Fire Investigator Technician (IAAI-FIT) through the International Association of Arson Investigators. SA Burkett has attended numerous hours of training in regard to fire investigation. As of the date of this memo, SA Burkett has participated in 86 fire investigations since hired with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. SA Burkett is a competent fire investigator and is highly respected by his local, state, and federal partners.

I strongly recommend Special Agent Burkett to serve as a member on the North Carolina State's Certified Fire Investigator Board.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary M. Holder".

ASAC M.M. Holder

Agenda

Certification Board Meeting

May 18, 2023
13:00 P.M.

Forsyth Tech - Kernersville Campus (Grady P. Swisher Center)
and by Zoom

Meeting called
by:

Chair Kevin Gordon

Type of
meeting:

Certification Board

Note taker:

Monna Gillespie

Agenda topics

Opening and Welcome	Chair
Approval of Agenda	Chair
Approval of Minutes (12/01/2022 and 01/05/2023)	Chair

Standing Committees / Reports

OSFM Update	Brian Wade
-------------	------------

Ad Hoc Committees

None

Agenda

Certification Board Meeting

June 08, 2023
10:00 A.M.

Forsyth Tech – Kernersville Campus (Grady P. Swisher Center)

Meeting called by:

Chair Kevin Gordon

Type of meeting:

Certification Board

Note taker:

Monna Gillespie

Agenda topics

Opening and Welcome	Chair
Approval of Agenda	Chair
Approval of Minutes (05/18/2023)	Chair

Standing Committees / Reports

OSFM Update	Brian Wade
-------------	------------

Ad Hoc Committees

None

North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission's Certification Board

1. Kevin S. Gordon	NC Association of Fire Chiefs (12/31/2024)
2. *Terry Foxx	NC Association of Rescue and EMS, Inc. (12/31/2025)
3. Jim Hanline	NC Society of Fire Rescue Instructors (12/31/2025)
4. Walter Gardner	Member of the Fire and Rescue Commission (12/31/2024)
5. Jason Edwards	Appointee of the Fire and Rescue Chairman (12/31/2025)
6. **Derrick Clouston	Appointee of the Fire and Rescue Vice-Chairman (12/31/2025)
7. Doug Bissette	NC Firefighters' Association (12/31/2025)
8. Alex Collazo	NC Fire Marshal's Association (12/31/2023)
9. Joel Faircloth	NC Association of Rescue and EMS, Inc. (12/31/2024)
10. Ken Hogue	NC Association of Rescue and EMS, Inc. (12/31/2023)
11. Vacant	NC Association of Rescue and EMS, Inc. (12/31/2024)
12. David Bullins	NC DCC; Fire-Rescue FR Advisory Committee (12/31/2023)
13. Josh Smith	Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of NC (12/31/2023)
14. Brian Taylor	NC Office of State Fire Marshal (Permanent)

* Chairman

** Vice – Chairman

Pending vacancy for NCAFC; NCAFC will recommend appointment for the unexpired term through 12/31/2024.

NC Association of Rescue and EMS, Inc.; will also have a vacancy of an expired term through 12/31/2024.

NFPA 1006 - 2023 Proposal

North
Carolina
Office of
State
Fire
Marshal



NFPA 1006 PROPOSAL

Proposal

The updated 2021 Standard has moved to three levels within each discipline; Awareness, Operations, and Technician.

We are currently accredited for 11 different levels of Rescue, which accounts for 21 levels of accreditation. In the 2021 standard we would move to 11 levels (no longer have Chapter 5 General - Add Chapter 9 Heavy Vehicle), which will account for 33 levels of accreditation.

We recommend that we run all three levels together. We would recommend that we use skills to test the Awareness levels and two written exams along with skill books for the Operations and Technician levels.

While the TR basic information is not included in the standard, it is important information that needs to carry over. Therefore, it is recommended that we have two distinct programs:

- Technical Rescuer Class - Basic Information and all of Chapter 5 Ropes
- Standalone Chapter 5 Ropes Class

In addition, it is recommended that we divide this project up into two phases of development.

Phase 1

- Chapter 5 Ropes Rescue
- Chapters 8 Common Passenger Vehicle Rescue
- Chapter 13 Machinery Rescue
- Chapter 6 Structural Collapse Rescue
- Chapter 7 Confined Space Rescue
- Chapter 11 Wilderness Search and Rescue
- Chapter 12 Trench Rescue
- Chapters 17 (Surface Water Rescue) and Chapter 18 (Swiftwater Rescue)
- Chapter 19 Dive Rescue

Phase 2 - New Programs

- Chapter 9 Heavy Vehicle Rescue (priority)
- Chapter 4 Tower Rescue


- Chapter 22 Watercraft Rescue
- Chapter 23 Floodwater Rescue

No current plans for the following Chapters:

- Chapter 10 Animal Technical Rescue
- **Chapter 14 Cave Rescue*
- **Chapter 15 Mine and Tunnel Rescue*
- Chapter 16 Helicopter Rescue
- **Chapter 20 Ice Rescue*
- **Chapter 21 Surf Rescue*
- **The NC FRC voted to not pursue these with the 2013 updates to Technical Rescuer.*

Textbooks - (approved textbooks are J&B Publishers):

- Vehicle Rescue - Awareness, Operations, and Technician for Chapters 8 and 9
- Water Rescue - Awareness, Operations, and Technician for Chapters 17, 18, 19, and 23
- Rope Rescue - Awareness, Operations, and Technician for Chapter 5
- Trench Rescue - Awareness, Operations, and Technician for Chapter 12
- *Confined Space Rescue - Awareness, Operations, and Technician for Chapter 7*
 - Approved moving to the books for the courses listed above. These will have test banks from the publisher and Skill books developed by us.
- Structural Collapse, Wilderness, and Machinery do not have books available.
- Recommend that we keep the Dive program as is, just update the JPR's.

	Suspension, Denial, or Revocation of Certification	
	<i>Section:</i> Certification Board Governance	
	<i>Effective:</i> October 08, 2013	<i>Latest Revision:</i> July 11, 2023
	<i>Approved:</i> NC Fire and Rescue Commission	
	<i>References:</i>	<i>Forms:</i>

I. SCOPE

In a continued effort to reduce the fire loss in the State of North Carolina, the State Legislature established GS 58-78-5(a)(14b), which requires the State Fire and Rescue Commission to establish voluntary minimum professional qualifications for all levels of fire and rescue service personnel. It is the intent of this manual to set forth policies and procedures pertaining to Certification Board. The following policy was established to handle suspension, denial, or revocation of certifications.

A. Suspension, Denial, or Revocation of Certification

1. Instances that may result in the issuance of consequences include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Has been convicted of a felony against this State or the United States, or convicted of a felony in another state that would also be a felony if it had been committed in this State;
 - i. The Board will utilize the decision of a criminal background review by NCOEMS, if the applicant has a NCOEMS credential or NCOEMS predetermination decision.
 - b. Has been convicted of arson or another felony involving burning or setting fire under Article 15, 22, or any felony under any other Article of Chapter 14 of the NC General Statuts;
 - c. Has obtained certification through fraud, deceit or perjury;
 - d. Has knowingly aided or abetted any person who has obtained certification through fraud, deceit or perjury; or
 - e. Has been guilty of willful misconduct or gross incompetence.
2. The Board may investigate the actions of any certified individual or applicant upon the verified complaint, in writing, of any person alleging a violation of subsection A. 1. a.-d. above.

3. The Board may deny an application for certification, suspend or revoke a certification or refuse to grant a certification to any individual for any of the grounds that are described in subsection A. 1. a.-e. above. Within 30 days after receipt of a notification that an application for a certificate has been denied or a certification has been revoked, the applicant may make a written request for a hearing before the Fire and Rescue Commission.

NCSFA 3rd Quarter Report

July, 2023

Introduce Any Past Presidents

Introduce Any Board

Introduce Any Staff

Relief Fund

The Treasurer's Financial Report is due October 31st, based upon the year close at June 30th. Please remind them the system is open for them to begin submitting the report on line.

In addition, this year the Chief will again submit the Certificate of Eligibility at the same time they are doing their roster at year end, rather than a separate report in October to OSFM. The submittal is integral to the roster system on-line. That report, like the roster, is due by January 15th.

Each year staff spends the last week of October trying to contact Relief Fund Treasurers to get their reports submitted. If they are not submitted the local relief fund will not receive a check in 2024. Please help us by telling Chiefs to remind their Treasurers to submit the report and bank statements.

Relief Fund Use Fiscal Year 2021/2022

During the last year there were 582 requested uses of the local Relief Fund totaling \$2.7 million dollars. We continue to see an increase in request and uses of the relief fund. The highest use is Destitution or Financial hardships followed by supplemental retirement funding requests. The increased use follows the General Assembly guidance in 2014 that we either use it or lose it.

Conference Update

This year's dates for the SAFRE Conference are August 8th-13th, 2023. We have great speakers this year, great classes, and a sold-out vendor display. We look forward to seeing each of you during opening session of conference Thursday morning, as well as the business sessions of NCSFA and NCAFC.

On Tuesday of this year's conference at 12:00 noon we will have a combined Summit of the State and Regional Boards to discuss current issues. This will include the Eastern Western, Piedmont, NCSFA, NCAFC, and staff from OSFM.

Attendees will enjoy a free exhibitor floor again this year and we have extended Saturday's hours till 2pm. Free conference tee shirts will be given to all full conference registrants.

On Thursday, August 10th, during the SAFRE Opening Session we will once again be honoring those members of NCSFA who have achieved either their 25 or 50 Years of Service by presenting them with an NCSFA Service Award pin. If you have reached one of these milestones, please join us and get your service pin.

Our banquet, as always is being held on Saturday night, and our Memorial Service & a candlelight memorial service will be held Thursday afternoon. Please remember to sign up for banquet.

Legislative Report

Legislative Day

Legislative Day was a success with one of the biggest groups we've had in years.

Introduction

Legislation has been busy this year.

The NCSFA and the NCAFC's held a joint Legislative Committee meeting in December to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming session. 1st Vice President Richard Pulley from the NCSFA Chaired the meeting. Several Legislative Priorities were discussed and decide upon. There will obviously be other bills that are introduced affecting the fire service, but the priorities established by the committee are:

- **Increase in Fire and Rescue Pension Benefits.** This would include a \$5 increase in benefits with a \$5 increase in premiums. SB 728 has been introduced increasing the pension to \$200 per month, which doesn't hold much hope, but HB 270 with a \$5 increase has passed the House and may be included in the budget.
- **Secure continuation funding for the Cancer Insurance Pilot Program** going into the future. We have met with legislators and have identified a funding source. Introduced as (SB 326). It passed the Senate and hopefully will be heard in the House or included in the budget.
- **Revise the Background Check Law for the fire service allowing alternatives for applicants who have lived in NC for five years and exempting junior members.** (HB 378) which has passed the House. (Also included in the text of SB 381 and SB 326)
- **Continue to pursue the use of blue lights on the rear of fire apparatus.** This is being met with continued resistance from law enforcement groups.
- **Oppose any legislative increase in use or sell of fireworks.**
- **Monitor and discuss any additional legislation introduced.**

***** Indicates NCSFA/NCAFC Priority**

H 0055 | Fire Investigation Law Revisions. Passed House and in Senate Rules.

Expands the investigative powers of the State Fire Marshal related to Arson.

******* H 0270 | Death Benefits Parity/Fire & Rescue Increase. Passed House and In Senate Rules

Increases Fire and Rescue Pension Benefits

H 0363 | The Gabe Torres Act. Passed House in Senate Rules.

THE GABE TORRES ACT, TO EXPAND THOSE ELIGIBLE UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES' DEATH BENEFITS ACT, AND TO HONOR THE LIFE OF GABE TORRES, A RALEIGH POLICE OFFICER WHOSE LIFE CAME TO AN END AFTER A TRAGIC ACT OF VIOLENCE ON OCTOBER 13, 2022, WHILE HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO WORK. THIS WOULD ALLOW TRAVEL TO AND FROM DUTY AS WELL AS TO AND FROM TRAINING TO BE CONSIDERED COVERED UNDER THE LODD ACT.

H 0370 | Responsible Firefighting Foam Management Act. Passed House in Senate Rules - Robert Davis |

TO FORBID USE OF FIREFIGHTING FOAMS CONTAINING PFAS CHEMICALS FOR FIREFIGHTING TRAINING OR TESTING PURPOSES. THIS ONLY COVERS TRAINING AND TESTING OF CLASS B FOAM, NOT IT'S USE IN ACTUAL EMERGENCIES.

*** H 0378 | Firefighters Criminal History Record Checks. Passed House in Senate Rules Hugh Blackwell |

PROVIDING THAT COUNTIES AND CITIES MAY HAVE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS FOR FIREFIGHTER APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS OF THE STATE FOR FIVE OR MORE YEARS CONDUCTED THROUGH THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT OR A THIRD-PARTY VENDOR AND PROVIDING THAT THE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS REQUIREMENT SHALL NOT APPLY TO JUNIOR MEMBERS UNDER EIGHTEEN.

H 0387 | Medal of Valor Award for First Responders Engrossed and Presented to the Go Charles Miller |

To award the "Medal of Valor Award" to a first responder upon recommendation from the highest-ranking official within a department or agency employing first responders. The Governor may award up to two medals of valor to first responders each calendar year. The

Governor may also award one Medal of Valor to an entire unit once each calendar year. If two recipients have already been awarded for the calendar year, the Governor may award a third recipient under special circumstances. The Medal of Valor 16 Award shall be for first responders that have performed great acts of heroism, while under threat of personal risk to their safety, beyond the call of duty in the field. For the purposes of this subdivision, a "first responder" includes any firefighter, paramedic, law enforcement officer, emergency medical services personnel, or rescue squad member."

H 0488 | Code Council Reorg. and Var. Code Amend Mark Brody Engrossed and Vetoed

REORGANIZES THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL AND CREATE THE RESIDENTIAL CODE COUNCIL AND AMENDS VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUILDING CODE AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS.

H 0565 | Study Volunteer Firefighter Incentives. Passed House in Senate Rules Jarrod Lowery |

DIRECTS THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE AND THE LABOR AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO STUDY WAYS TO INCENTIVIZE THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS.

H 0633 | Shine Like Hailey Parade Safety Act. Passed House in Senate Rules Frank Sossamon |

ENACT THE "SHINE LIKE HAILEY PARADE SAFETY ACT" BY AMENDING THE MOTOR VEHICLE LAWS OF THE STATE TO IMPOSE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATION OF A PARADE VEHICLE, THAT NO LESS THAN 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PARADE THEY BE INSPECTED BY POLICE AND FIRE FOR REGISTRATION AND INSURANCE.

H 0661 | Emergency Services Peer Counseling Privilege. Passed House in Senate Rules Matthew Winslow |

EXPANDS THE SCOPE OF VARIOUS PEER SUPPORT GROUP COUNSELOR PROVISIONS

H 0707 | Assaults on First Responders & Social Workers. Passed House in Senate Rules Reece Pyrtle |

INCREASES THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT WITH A FIREARM AGAINST CERTAIN EMERGENCY, MEDICAL, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL; TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT AGAINST AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER, A LEGISLATIVE OFFICER, OR A COURT OFFICER AND INFLICTING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY; AND TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT OR MAKING A THREAT AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY OR ACTING ON BEHALF OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

S 0053 | Hotel Safety Issues Ch. SL 2023-5 | Vickie Sawyer |

TO CLARIFY THAT OCCUPANTS OF ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED BY HOTELS, MOTELS, OR SIMILAR LODGINGS DO NOT CREATE A TENANCY AND ARE NOT SUBJECT TO CHAPTER 42 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES AND TO CLARIFY THAT THESE OCCUPANCIES ARE GOVERNED BY THE STATUTES RELATING TO INNS, HOTELS, AND OTHER TRANSIENT OCCUPANCIES.

*** S 0326 | Firefighter Cancer Ins/Alt Crim Rec Check/WC. Passed the Senate in House Rules Todd Johnson |

FUNDS THE NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTER CANCER INSURANCE PROGRAM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE BY AMENDING THE CURRENT PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GROSS PREMIUM ASSESSMENT AND TO SET RETAINED EARNING LIMITS FOR THE VOLUNTEER SAFETY WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND

Staying Active Legislatively and Engagifi

Right now, we have 2104 active Advocates on Engagifi. That means out of 50,000+ firefighters, just over 4%.

We would prefer to have many more, but the system is designed to allow people to join, not force or bulk sign them.

If you want to keep up with what's going on and be a part of promoting and getting good legislation passed, join up. At the very least it will give you weekly updates and contact information for all of your representatives.

Log on to NCSFA, click on the Legislative Banner called Engagifi, or look under the Legislative Flag. Provide your email, design your own password, and provide your home zip code. It allows for much more, but that is all that is required. It takes less than 3 minutes.

First Responders Day, on September 11th

Please remember and start planning events for First Responder Day, September 11th. This is a designated holiday in NC, established in 2017 by the General Assembly.

Questions?



North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs Quarterly Report

July 11, 2023

- The NCAFC along with New Hanover County Fire Rescue and Wilmington Fire Department co-hosted the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Conference in Wilmington, June 13 – 15, 2023. Thank you to New Hanover County Fire Rescue and Wilmington Fire Department for their outstanding job. We are proud to say that the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Volunteer Fire Chief Award has been renamed as the Len Needham SEAFC Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year Award. Well deserved by Chief Needham, one of our past presidents.
- Reminder that NCAFC has been awarded another Recruitment and Retention grant to assist North Carolina Volunteer Fire Departments with their initiatives on recruiting and retaining members. Chief Tracy Mosley is heading up the grant and information and the application is on the NCAFC web site. A workshop will be held at SAFRE in Raleigh next month.
- North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs License plates are now available to NC Fire Officers interested in purchasing one. The information and DMV Form are located on the NCAFC web site.
- The North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs will be participating in the Annual SAFRE Conference next month in Raleigh, we hope you will drop by our booth. We will also be hosting the annual Chief's Breakfast on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 7:00 AM. Pre-registration is requested.

- The North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs Executive Development Course will once again be held right here at Kernersville Fire Department the last week of September and last week of October of this year. We have a great course line-up. Registration will open this week.
- We would like to Welcome our new Eastern Carolina Firefighters Association regional director the NCAFC board, Chief Allen Wilson from Surf City Fire Department.
- The North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Mid-Winter Conference will once again be held at the Embassy Suites and Conference Center in Concord NC. The dates are January 30 – February 2, 2024. More information on registration, awards, and hotel reservations are forth coming.

NC Association of Rescue & EMS
Fire & Rescue Commission Report
07-11-2023

- Convention / annual meeting is currently to be held in Holiday Inn Biltmore West, Asheville NC September 8-9, 2023. In conjunction with our annual meeting we will host rescue and BLS competitions, as well as rescue and EMS classes. Please mark your calendars.

If we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Joel Faircloth
Executive Director

NC Department of Labor

Cory Dunphy Report

- Federal OSHA revised CPL 03-00-008: Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program (NEP) and it has been adopted for use by NC OSH. There have been a few changes within the guidance provided in the document, but mostly dealing with inspection procedures.
- NC OSH's proposed Heat Stress Standard – We have received the first round of public comments and are reviewing them. There is no timetable yet as to when the next period for public comments will start, or when to expect the standard to be rolled out.
- Back in the fall of 2022, legislation was passed that required NC OSH to match Federal OSHA's penalty amount for serious violations of the OSHA standards. At the time, the penalty amounts increased to \$14, 502. Starting this year, the penalty amount for a serious violation will increase when Federal OSHA's amounts increase, which is July 1st so, as of July 1, 2023, the penalty amount for a serious violation of the OSHA standards is now \$15, 625.
- Earlier this year, legislation passed the revised some NC OSH policies, which included authorizing NC OSH to provide communications, including citation packets electronically to employer. We are no longer required to physically mail citation packets via certified mail, so that means there are no more green cards to sign.