



VSFA's

Green Mountain Responder *E-Newsletter*

A Quarterly Newsletter for those who give of themselves to protect others
Published by the Vermont State Firefighters' Association

"For and About Vermont Emergency Services"

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In This Issue

VSFA Memorial Service

Help Get the Word Out About Convention

Green Mountain L.A.S.T.

NVFC Annual Meeting Report

Large Animal Technical Rescue Training

VT Emergency Services Memorial Update

Hazmat Cost Recovery

Change to PSOB

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North Country International Fire Training School Celebrates 40 Years

The North Country International Fire Training School announces it's 40th anniversary of providing fire training to the North Country and beyond.

The school will be held on June 4th & 5th, 2011. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.ncifts.org/>

Executive Board Meeting Schedule

The next executive board meeting will be held on June 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. All meetings will be held in Pittsford at the Police Academy, which is the same location as in previous years. Lunch will be provided.

President's Message

Tim Girard, VSFA President

Hello everyone, I hope you have survived the winter months and are now looking forward to the warm days of Spring and Summer.

In this article I would like to talk about American Income Life (AIL). This insurance company is a Accidental and Life Insurance Provider that covers you the Vermont State Firefighter. ALL provides to the VSFA member benefits such as: Funeral Coverage, Hospital and ER coverage, Prescription, and Eye glass care, to name a few. This year I have been notified that the Accidental Death Policy has increased from \$2500.00 to \$3000.00

The AIL representative can explain more when they visit with you. This of course is at your convenience. What we have done here in Franklin County this past year with great success is to have the representative come to a Fire Department meeting. Right now you may have or will receive a yellow card in the mail. Please fill this card out and send it back. This card is how AIL works with the VSFA individual members.

American Income Life also provides more products than the basic coverage. But, I must say with extra coverage as any insurance there is extra cost. This is a option to you, you maybe happy with the basic coverage. But please take a few minutes and make sure everything is properly completed in order to take full advantage of the basic policy. We ask that you work with the AIL representative when they call to make arrangements to meet with you and/or your Department.

We the officers (representatives of VSFA) have worked very hard in making this Provider VSFA friendly to you and your family for the day you made need Accidental and Life Insurance.

In closing it is very important to have the security for you and your family in case something should happen. We know it may not be a huge amount but it is a start. We are thinking of you as a VSFA member.

Memorial Service to Honor Fallen in a New Way!

Submitted by Bill Elwell

Equipment For Sale

Large Diameter Hose
1400 feet of 5" LDH, \$1.50 per ft,
taken off truck when two Fire
Departments consolidated and trucks
sold.

Cascade System
6 bottle cascade system with stainless
steel control panel, each bottle is
individually valved on the panel for
cascading system.
Set-up for filling one bottle at a time.
The bottles are 3,600 psi, last tested
4/06. asking \$1,000.

Contact Chief Robert Kilpeck, Brandon
Fire Dept. 802-247-3646

The VSFA Memorial Service will be held Friday July 22nd at 6pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church located on the Village Green in Middlebury. This year's service will include the pictures of those who have died in the last year being displayed electronically during the service. This will add another great way of remembering those who have served. Your help is needed to make this happen. Please email pictures and names of those your dept has lost in the last year to Dean Gilmore deano@gmavt.net

It's Time to Register for Convention - Help Get the Word Out!

Submitted by Bill Elwell

As summer approaches and gas prices rise, registration for the 122nd VSFA Convention continues. This is a great way to get away and stay in-state. The convention is in Middlebury, July 22-24. Departments should have received their information packets. For more information go the Vermont State Firefighters Association website at www.vtfirefighters.org.

In addition the VSFA and the Addison County committee are working hard to communicate this as a chance for the people of VT to come and learn about the fire service and support their local departments. If you have ways to get the word out in your local area, please contact Bill Elwell, by e-mail at rescueme97@yahoo.com or by phone at 802-349-3028 and I will get you information to make that happen.

**Mark Your Calendar &
Make Your Reservations!**

Vermont State Firefighters Association
122nd Annual Conference
hosted by the
Addison County Firefighters Association at Middlebury
JULY 22 - 24, 2011

Our 2011 host Committee is busy planning a fun-filled weekend of events. Check our web site frequently for updated information at www.vtfirefighters.org

Announcing the Formation of the Vermont Local Assistance State Team (L.A.S.T.) *Green Mountain L.A.S.T. - Resources for Local Heros*

In the event of a department death or a Line of Duty Death, a team is dispatched upon request of that department to assist immediately, ideally within the first few hours following a LODD. The Team will then provide resources for the department and/or family as needed. The Team works with the support from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, for information please visit www.firehero.org.

Currently the team has met once and has begun to organize. The Green Mountain Team will be available for all emergency service departments in Vermont. If you are interested in joining the team or need the assistance of the team please call:

Chief Robert J. Kilpeck, Brandon Fire Department
Cell 802-342-0369, Home 802-247-3646, E-mail: rjkilpeck@aol.com

William Hathaway, Executive Director - Bennington Rescue
Cell 802-770-0911, Work 802-442-5817, Home 802-442-5672, E-mail: brsdirector@comcast.net

Frank Popeleski, Underhill Jericho Fire Department
Cell 802-777-0004, Home 802-899-1972, E-mail: vt2448fan@yahoo.com

The next meeting of THE GREEN MOUNTAIN L.A.S.T. will be June 4th 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Brandon Fire House, Vt. Route 7, Brandon VT. All are welcome to attend.

National Volunteer Fire Council Annual Meeting

Submitted by Chief Robert Kilpeck, State Director



The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) held its annual spring board meeting April 3-6, 2011, in Alexandria, VA. There were forty-two states in attendance at the 2011 spring meeting.

The meeting marked the 35th anniversary of the NVFC. As I look back on my twenty-one years as your State Director at how much the organization has grown and how much has been accomplished in that time, it is because of the dedication and hard work of all the Directors, Officers and staff, present and past. The NVFC is the only national organization that is representing the volunteer Fire and EMS organizations in the country.

When one looks at the challenges in the volunteer emergency services that we have faced, the NVFC has met and overcome these challenges in the past and will. I have no doubt that the organization will continue to rise to meet any challenges that come before us now and in the future.

The emergency services in this country are seeing a great many challenges now, and the younger members of our organizations are going to see even more.

This being the annual meeting, the NVFC held elections for the Officer and Executive Committee members, these are two year terms.

Chair - Phillip Stittleburg (WI), 1st Vice Chair - Jeff Cash (NC), 2nd Vice Chair - Jack Carriger (OR), Sec/Treas - Allen Metheny (DE). The Executive Committee is made up of the Officers and five State Directors, they are; Mike Bird (MA), Pat Hlavaty (TX), Suzie Koklich (AK), Kevin Quinn (RI), Bob Timko (PA), as the Preseident of the NVFC Foundation I also sit on the Executive Committee.

The Council's nineteen different committees met to discuss topics ranging from membership, bylaws, homeland security, NFPA Standards and legislation, much of the Council business is done at the committee level before coming before the full Board.

During the meeting the Board voted to adopt positions on various pieces of legislation and policy. The following is the current list of legislative priorities:

1. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Programs
2. Nationwide Broadband Communications Network
3. Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act
4. Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Reauthorization Act
5. Volunteer Firefighter and EMS Job Protection Act
6. U.S. Fire Administration
7. Fire Sprinkler Incentive Act
8. Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteer Efforts Act
9. Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act
10. Citizen Corps/Fire Corps Funding and Authorization

The Board endorsed the Fire Police Fairness Act (H.R. 1348). The bill would extend eligibility for the (PSOB) to fire police officers who are providing scene security or directing traffic. The NVFC opposes designating volunteers as "Contractors" for the purposes of taxation. A bill (H.R. 5537) has been introduced that would have classified volunteer firefighters as "independent contractors" by adding them to a portion of the tax code urrently reserved for real estate agents.

You can learn more about these and other legislative issues at www.nvfc.org/priorities.

For the first time, the NVFC held a series of educational sessions and roundtable discussions on several critical topics. The Board participated in a volunteer leadership session presented by a DC area attorney, this session focused on board fiduciary obligations, governance, and other legal issues.

One roundtable was made-up of four EMS leaders to discuss EMS issues and initiatives. The group included EMS Section Chair Ken Knipper from Kentucky, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Registry of EMT's, and Dan Manz representing National Assoc. of State EMS Officials.

The other roundtable session was on building capacity in a department. The session explained how innovative outreach efforts can have a significant impact on retaining and recruiting volunteers. The discussion focused on social media, marketing, reputation management, and out-of-the-box recruitment ideas. There was great discussion on fire departments, facebook and twitter, once something good or bad is put out there, there is no pulling it back. I listened to some directors tell about departments in their states that have had negative things posted that was not their department but another with the same name. How many Brandon FD are there in the country?

There is a great deal of information available at www.nvfc.org.

Large Animal Technical Rescue Training

Submitted by Cindy Cross-Greenia

Fire departments are being called more and more to animal emergencies. The Vermont Horse Council Large Animal Technical Rescue (LATR) Project is helping to meet this need by sponsoring training and providing specialized equipment to LATR teams within the state. Currently there are five LATR teams and more are planned. Whether or not your department is housing this equipment you may encounter a mutual aid situation in which LATR equipment is in use.

In September of 2007 the first LATR training was held and Colchester Technical Rescue became the first LATR team in Vermont with equipment provided by the Vermont Horse Council. On January 1, 2011 an 850 pound paint mare named Rona spooked and ran over a steep embankment into a river at the bottom of a ravine. Colchester Tech Rescue used every piece of LATR equipment that had been provided to bring Rona to safety. Both responders and veterinarian stated that the horse would not have been rescued had it not been for the specialized equipment. If the LATR team response had not been available, human injuries may have occurred if horse owners banded together to attempt to save the horse themselves.

The Vermont Horse Council is pleased to sponsor our fourth Large Animal Technical Rescue Training. This course is open to all active members of Vermont fire departments, rescue squads, veterinarians, and law enforcement agencies (all other interested parties are invited to participate as auditors). This training will teach techniques to perform rescues in the most efficient manner while avoiding injury to animal and responder.

This course will be held on May 21, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. and will encompass two areas:

Horse Handling and Behavior will be taught by Susan Hauck, Chairperson of the Champlain LATR and Orwell FD Co-Training Officer. In this section we will discuss the behavior of the horse and how it relates to safety for the responder. We will demonstrate and practice safe ways of moving about horses, emergency haltering and restraint, and have hands on training with live horses.

Rescues will be taught by Roger Lauze, Coordinator of Rescue and Training for the MSPCA and will focus on basic rescue techniques using items such as straps, rescue hooks and the specialized Rescue Glide. We will be using "Lucky" a life size pose able horse rescue mannequin. Instruction will encompass both visuals and hands on training using real life rescue scenarios as a basis. Please dress appropriately as these scenarios may include any type of terrain, water or weather conditions.

Deadline for Registration is May 17th 2011. Late registrations will not be accepted and space is limited.

Cost of Registration: \$ 30.00 per attendee or \$15.00 for auditors and will include lunch. To register: complete the registration and liability release forms and send with payment to Cindy Cross-Greenia at the address below, Checks should be made to: **Vermont Horse Council** Additional registration forms are available at www.vthorsecouncil.org on our committees page.

For additional information contact:
Cindy Cross-Greenia, LATR Chair
PO Box 392, Underhill, VT 05489
802/899-3928 or crossgreenia@gmail.com

Vermont Emergency Services Memorial Committee Update

Kevin Blongy and Bill Lovett have talked to a staffer for Peter Welch, who is going to look into a bill that will aid in the completion of unfinished memorials. This is what we similarly were trying to do with Senators Leahy and Jeffords in the past. This would be the easiest way to complete the memorial. He's also looking into other avenues of funding, just in case.

Last time it was figured out last summer, we needed about \$48,000 to complete the project. Because of a lack of earlier records, determining a final "order in which they were bought" list for the pavers would be difficult. Because of my research, we are positive on the brick size (by cost) and the proper inscription desired. In the future, we will be getting ready to apply for 501(C)3 status. We will be having a future meeting with all interested parties for brainstorming, funding to reach the point to get the pavers done and installed, fundraising for perpetual care, and many smaller projects.

Hazmat Incident Cost Recovery

Submitted by Chief Chris Herrick, Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team

Hazardous Materials Response can eat up large amounts of time, equipment and personnel resources. In fact, the response to a large HAZMAT incident could cost a department their entire year's budget. So what is the fire chief to do?

Vermont Statutes allow for the fire department to recover costs directly associated with the response to a HAZMAT incident. Specifically, VSA Title 20, Part I, Chapter 1, Section 29 states:

"(e) The state or any political subdivision, including any municipality, fire district, emergency medical service, or incorporated village, is authorized to recover any and all reasonable direct expenses incurred as a result of the response to and recovery of a hazardous chemical or substance incident from the person or persons responsible for the incident."

There are some important steps to take before you have an incident. Your department should decide that it will bill the 'responsible party' (RP) when you have a HAZMAT incident. The department should also decide what costs it will be recovering. The simple part is the replacement of supplies used; for these you simply pass on the cost to restock to the RP.

It should be noted that the statute allows for municipalities to recover costs as well. This could apply to those towns that contract to another fire department for services.

Some departments have a fee schedule for personnel costs as well as hourly apparatus rates. These rates should be determined ahead of time and should have a rationale as to how they were derived. For instance, personnel costs should reflect actual costs.

Additionally, I would encourage departments who respond together often to develop a standard billing rate for apparatus in their mutual aid area. It is in the best interest of the departments if the departments in an area are consistent.

One last and important note. You should be reporting all HAZMAT spills to the HAZMAT hotline 1-800-641-5005. This is critical if your department responds to a HAZMAT incident where either the RP is unknown or unwilling to reimburse. The Agency of Natural Resources can greatly assist the departments in the cost recovery effort...**but only if the call was reported immediately and to the**

HAZMAT Hotline 1-800-641-5005.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this or anything HAZMAT!

Important Change to Public Safety Officers' Benefit

Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible, (Fire, EMS, Police). It provides Death Benefits in the form of a one-time financial payment to the eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths are the direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty. Today that benefit is, \$318,111.64. It also provides Disability Benefits for public safety officers who have been permanently and totally disabled by a catastrophic personal injury sustained in the line of duty. If that injury permanently prevents the officer from performing any substantial and gainful work. The PSOB's Educational Assistance Act provides financial assistance for higher education for the spouses and children of public safety officers who have been permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty.

Should the officers death be found eligible for the PSOB benefit, and the firefighter/EMS officer has no surviving spouse or eligible children for PSOB purposes, the next level of beneficiary is the "PSOB Designee" on file with the agency at the time of the officer's death. The PSOB Office has partnered with the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF) to provide this template for departments to use regarding a PSOB designee, especially vital in those instances where a public safety officer is not married and has no children, or adult children only.

The "Designation of Beneficiaries" template can be customized on your department letterhead. This document should be reviewed annually and changed as needed. The department keeps this completed document on file. Many departments provide the member with the form and an envelope with the members name typed on it and indentified as a beneficiaries form.

For questions regarding this information, or for details regarding the PSOB program you can visit PSOB online at www.psob.gov, or contact Chief Robert Kilpeck, 802-247-3646, or rjkilpeck@aol.com. The template is also available at www.nvfc.org/resources/lodd.

NVFC Health Fair at the New England Fire, Rescue, and EMS Conference

June 24 - 26, 2011 - West Springfield, MA

More information at

www.newenglandfirechiefs.org

[NVFC Health Fair Brochure](#)

Free NVFC Health and Wellness Advocate Workshop, Friday - Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free NVFC Behavioral Health Workshop, Sunday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.