

To: All member of the Nevada State Firefighter's Association

I would like to take a moment of your time to say thank you to everyone that was able to show up to this year's Training Fire Conference in Fallon Nevada. I think it was well attended and the training was well received by all that attended this conference.

I would also like to take this time to welcome and congratulate our newest directors Joseph Mendoza and Jeff Moosman. With their background I'm positive that they will do a bang up job for us all.

Now for a little bit about myself I am Mark Flesher and been a part of the Nevada State Firefighter's Association since 2002. I have a Wife Dayna and two son's Julien and Travis. I'm a 16 year veteran of the Clark County fire department in Las Vegas Nevada.

I work as a life support technician dealing with SCBA's and PPE as well as training firefighters in the practical applications and limitations of their fire safety gear.

I sit on the worker comp committee and health and safety and PPE Committee for firefighters local 1908 as an executive board member.

I'm a technical search specialist for Nevada task force one NVTF-1, I've served on the FEMA team since 2002, and been deployed three times, hurricane Katrina, Rita as a logistics manager and a technical search specialist for the floods in Colorado in 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you all as the newest President of the Nevada State Firefighter's Association.

I thank you for your time

Mark Flesher

President - NSFA



Use of good people, to help good people grow.

All of us are good at something. Could be painting, writing, teaching, whatever. It is a great thing for teams to utilize the strengths of each involved in the common goal.

I am now in my 6<sup>th</sup> year with the NSFA Board of Directors. Next year would be my 7<sup>th</sup> year and my turn to be president.

Our current president Mark Flesher you all know well. His career is with Clark County. He heads up multiple operations full time with Clark County. Mark is also on the Nevada Firefighter Memorial Advisory Committee. Mark is perfect fit as our NSFA President.

I looked hard at how the NSFA was structured to routinely rotate our directors. Our 7 year growth outline is very good. I know it took a few years to understand everything. Next year we are slated to host the NVFC conference in Las Vegas. Mark lives in Las Vegas. I live in Reno. It did not make sense to me that would we move Mark to a past President and me to President when Mark has every intention to run for the board again and basically start his 7 year rotation again. The suggestion I made was to make the President's position a two year position. The conversation grew to the VP being appointed by the president and each director to be voted in each year.

I think some considered something like this in the past but because of our 7 year rotation that lead up to president it was never presented, maybe because "we have always done it this way" or possible as a board did not want to potentially offend someone from not reaching the position of president. I am a legacy professional volunteer. I work full time troubleshooting construction equipment. I have achieved my global training certification. I fix stuff and train technicians. I made perfect sense to me that there may not be a better opportunity than right now to drive the change for our NFSA President's position to be a two year position. The President would be voted in by the members every two years. In theory Mark could be president for the next ten years.

There was an interesting comment made by some when they learned of the change. The comment was: I would love to join the NSFA board but I really don't want to be President.

Our decision to change "how we have always done it" just may be the catalyst to draw more to want to be a NSFA board member to help Nevada Fire Fighters. Not everyone will want to be president or vice president but have much to offer. Possibly after three years life changes and you need to step out. A couple years down the road you may want to step back in.

Look deep inside yourself and ask yourself, what good in me can I share to help good people grow? Next year at our annual conference you may want to toss your hat into the ring to be nominated to be a new director.

The current team of directors or solid, we work very well together. I have plans to achieve my Fire Marshalls Training certification by 2018 / 2019. I still maintain my Nevada State FF / EMT license and my National Ski Patrol certification. I do not plan on retiring until 67 so I stay pretty busy. I just took over the pumper and appointed your NSFA Vice President and NSFA historian to document our NSFA events. I am excited for the future of the NFSA and

If you are interested in being a director ask one of us how to be-2018 nominee.

Al Drake
Vice President NSFA



## NSFA Awards Over \$10,000.00 in Scholarships

The Board of Directors of the Nevada State Firefighters Association is extremely proud to announce the awarding of over \$10,000.00 in scholarships to deserving children of our membership.

Here are the recipients:

L.N.Curtis Memorial Scholarship—\$1250.00 Ashlie Jenkins—Spring Creek High School.

Lee Engine Company/Tiffany Urresti Memorial Scholarship—\$1000.00. Hannah Hillyer—Lowry High School.

Fallon/Churchill VFD Scholarship—\$1000.00. Savannah Loncar— North Sevier High School.

Other Scholarship recipients include:

Lorin Oberman—Pershing County High School

Delaney Young—Churchill County High School.

Brooke Sasser4—Mineral County High School.

Elise Rose—Lowry High School.

Joshua DeFresne-Virginia City High School.

Ryan McKnight—White Pine County High School.

Alex Vest—Churchill County High School.



To Note: The 82nd
NSFA Conference
through events, raffles,
and auction replenished
the entire \$10,000 to
the scholarship fund.
This will allow the NSFA
to again support many
deserving children of
NSFA members in 2018.

## FCVFD Centennial Monument

The Fallon Churchill Volunteer Fire Department recently celebrated its 100 year anniversary as a Nevada Volunteer Fire Department. A committee was formed prior to the centennial anniversary to help find ways to memorialize the event. The idea for a permanent memorial to celebrate the first 100 years accomplishments of the FCVFD was brought up by its members, and a committee was formed to bring the project to life. The memorial itself took over a year from idea to completion. It was funded in part by the FCVFD and also received additional assistance from the City of Fallon. The majority of the work was done through local contractors and the plaques were designed and made by an engraving company out of Reno.

The memorial serves as a reminder of the FCVFD's history and includes the names of all members of the department who served more than 20 years of service with the FCVFD as well as all former and current Fire Chiefs and Charter Members. There is a blank plaque on the memorial that will serve as an additional plaque for future retirees from the department.

The monument will be dedicated during the Reunion Dinner at the Nevada State Firefighters Association 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Training Conference June 21, 2017 – 20 N. Carson St. Fallon, Nevada.





USFS Fire Prevention Specialist Recognized
On Tuesday, August 1, Commissioner

Larry Brown and the Clark County Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation to Ray Johnson in honor of his receipt of the prestigious Bronze Smokey Bear Award. Mr. Johnson received the award in recognition of 24 years of educating



the public about the dangers, causes, and prevention measures associated with wildland fire. Johnson has worked in fire prevention and fire information on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest for 18 years and six years with the National Park Service before that. He has visited over 50 Southern Nevada public schools in 2016 and 2017 to share fire safety and prevention messages, reaching around 8,000 first and second graders. Johnson has spoken to nearly 100,000 kids during his career. He has also conducted countless television, radio, and newspaper interviews and has worked with Spanish speaking media outlets to share the fire prevention message with the local Hispanic community.

I Just recently returned home from the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual Nevada State Firefighters' annual training Conference. I have seen a decline in attendance and I'm not sure WHY? This conference offers incredible training. They have had training in Hazmat, Extrication, EMS, Wildland and of course the live fire props. They also do manipulative skills in which one can challenge themselves. In addition to the training, the friendships developed are lasting ones. In the evenings during horseshoes, trap shooting or bowling whatever the activity may be one can visit with other departments/agencies and find out some of the commonalities/challenges we all have. We can learn from others. The number of years of experience when in attendance is immeasurable. Whether you're paid or volunteer the training you will receive is incredible. Some of the instructors are sent to us from the Fire Marshal's office as adjunct instructors. Many of our instructors are paid firefighters, officers or Chiefs. Yes we have fun and get a little silly maybe even partaking in a beverage or two at appropriate times. But the utmost important thing is the invaluable training you can receive. We are all professionals, one gets a check and the others volunteer. Look at your new board and find out how many of them are career and yet are so intertwined with the volunteers. We are all here for the same reason to save property and life.

What else does being an NSFA member get you? You can apply for stipends to attend trainings. Access to our Scholarship, Benevolence, Burn and Widows & Orphans Funds. As an NSFA member you also receive an AD&D policy plus much more. So for \$15.00 why not sign up and better yet get your entire department to as well. Our website is <a href="https://www.nsfa.org">www.nsfa.org</a> please check it out.

I attended my first conference in 1994 in Carson City and haven't missed one since. I have been to Tonopah, Pahrump, Minden, Winnemucca, Elko, Virginia City, Fallon and Ely. So let's get this out to everyone and try to grow our numbers. I look forward to it every year, they are my extended family.

So plan now for next year June 20-23 in Ely Nevada.

Linda Carr-Past President

## **NVFC Legislative Updates**

#### Michael Heidemann

### **NVFC Director – Legislative Committee Member**

A couple updates on various things happening in the legislative and regulatory arena at the moment (apologies for the length of the email but there is a lot going on!):

- AFG/SAFER reauthorization: Steve Hirsch (copied) testified before the House Research and Technology Subcommittee on AFG/SAFER/USFA reauthorization. His final testimony is attached and he did a great job of presenting it and answering questions highlighting the importance of the AFG program in particular in helping smaller fire departments reach a baseline level of readiness.

The Senate reauthorization bill passed out of committee weeks ago and it seems like we may be able to get it passed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that the Senate may or may not be taking up in the near future. There was a hold on it yesterday from a Senator who wanted to maintain the sunset provision but move it to 2023. That hold was removed in the late afternoon yesterday and as far as I know that means we are clear to have it included in NDAA. As of last night the plan was to take up NDAA today but I just heard that it isn't going to be on the floor next week. Whenever they take up NDAA, if we get the reauthorization into NDAA that means it will pass the Senate, and I suspect that the House will go along with what the Senate passes.

That would be excellent because we still don't have a House bill. Just about all of the major fire service orgs have asked the House to introduce legislation that is identical to what the Senate has. The one holdout is the National Association of State Fire Marshals, which testified at the hearing that they want the reauthorization to: 1) shift 8 percent of AFG funds to FP&S (about \$27 million based on last year's appropriation), 2) allocate 17 percent of FP&S funds for grants for state fire marshals, 3) make state fire marshals eligible for AFG, in addition to FP&S, and 4) modify SAFER so that fire departments can hire/recruit/retain fire investigators and code enforcement personnel who are not firefighters. The NVFC opposes 1-3 and we are neutral on 4. I've been working with the subcommittee members to educate them on why what NASFM is proposing is a bad idea, and have been working through some of our state associations that are represented by members who NASFM got to prior to the hearing. I think we're going to be OK when it is all said and done but the NASFM thing is delaying introduction.

#### **NVFC Legislative Updates continued**

- Appropriations: The House has a DHS appropriations bill that provides \$345 million each for AFG and SAFER, which is the same as last year. The House bill knocks a few hundred thousand off of USFA. The House also has an Interior appropriations bill that provides a little less than \$15 million for VFA. That would be a cut of a few hundred thousand from last year, but about \$3 million above what the President requested and also above the \$13 million that we were getting for years prior to last year's increase. I don't think that either of these bills are going anywhere before Congress leaves for August recess so there should be some time to see if an amendment is possible.
- Wildland fire issues: You may recall that there was a problem developing related to fire departments accessing surplus DOD equipment through the FFP program. The short version is that DOD was planning on raising the security requirements for surplus vehicles and that was going to create problems in the FFP program. See the attached one-pager for more details. Working with IAFC, NASF (Foresters) and CFSI we were able to get Senator McCain and 10 other Senators to send a letter to Secretary Mattis asking him to address this problem. Within a week McCain got a letter back saying that they had fixed the problem on the front end (so acquisition would not be an issue) and were working to find a solution on the backend (so that it would be possible to gain title without having to jump through hoops). McCain has an amendment to the NDAA that would address this in statute and I heard this morning that it was accepted by the Armed Services Committee. DOD has said that they support the concept of the amendment but that they have a few changes to suggest. We're waiting to hear what those are but at this point it looks like this problem, which could have effectively shut down the FFP program, is going to be fixed before it negatively impacts fire departments at all.

On a less positive note, Senator Crapo had a provision added to the National Flood Insurance Program reauthorization that would cap regular appropriation spending on federal wildland fire suppression efforts and give the US Forest Service and Department of Interior the ability to draw from the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) to pay for expenditures over and above the level provided through the regular appropriation. We opposed this on the grounds that 1) the DRF is supposed to reimburse states and locals for costs associated with federal disasters, not supplement spending by other federal agencies and 2) there is no extra money in the DRF, in part because it is funded using a 10-year rolling average and Katrina relief expenditures just came off the books. I spoke with the FEMA government affairs staff about this on Wednesday and they are looking for help in getting the Crapo provision out of the banking legislation. I'm still waiting for talking points from FEMA but will probably be following up at some point with folks who are represented by Senators who are on the Banking Committee to coordinate on some outreach.

- Tax bills: There was an announcement yesterday that the House and Senate will use "regular order" to consider tax reform legislation. That is really good news from the perspective of being able to have our tax priorities offered as amendments. We have quite a bit of bipartisan support for the House version of

### **NVFC Legislative Updates continued**

the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (property tax benefits and up to \$600 per year in other R&R benefits are tax-free) and should be well-positioned to get that included if we have an opportunity to have it offered as an amendment. A little less clear on the Senate side, where we are having trouble lining up Republican support on the committee. Folks aren't saying they have a problem with the bill, just that they don't want to cosponsor tax legislation until they have a better understanding of what the tax reform package will look like.

Attached is an updated version of the Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (VESRRA). This is 2/3 of the old VESRRA, which we generally refer to as the "LOSAP bill." Recall that we had the LOSAP CAP Act introduced separately this year. That bill raises the cap on annual LOSAP contributions from \$3,000 to \$6,000 and puts in a mechanism for the cap to increase with inflation. The attached is an updated draft that addresses the other planks of the old VESRRA. We had to modify it based on questions that were raised by the Joint Committee on Tax and the U.S. Treasury about unintended consequences with the old VESRRA. The attached draft includes track changes comments from me explaining what each section does and describing the code references in the bill. It is much more simple and straightforward than the old VESRRA. If you have questions or would like additional detail beyond what is in the attached document let me know. I just sent this to the House and Senate sponsors offices yesterday and we'll probably be working over the August recess to get a final draft version for introduction.

- Firefighter Cancer Registry: The House Energy and Commerce Committee just approved the bill yester-day and the next stop is the House floor. I haven't heard anything but based on the overwhelming bi-partisan support, both in cosponsors and from the comments and votes by members of the committee, I imagine that it will be taken up sometime this fall. The Senate bill hasn't budged and I don't really know why. Probably just because it can be harder to move bills in the Senate rather than due to any particular opposition. Hopefully once the House bill passes and attention shifts to the Senate we'll see some movement.
- PSOB: Over the past few years the fire and police orgs were being invited in to have regular "partners" meetings with the Bureau of Justice Assistance to discuss PSOB-related matters. Those meetings have stopped this year, I would imagine due to the switchover in administrations and the fact that there weren't political appointees in place. The first meeting under the new administration is scheduled for August 16 and I will be there. There are a few outstanding issues that I'm hoping for updates on, including 1) the status of the pending regulations that would clarify that fire police are public safety officers, 2) information on the metrics that BJA is now publishing online related to how long it is taking to process claims, and 3) the status of the new online tracking system for claims.

## **NVFC Legislative Updates continued**

On the pending regulations, you may have seen earlier this month that the administration threw out 700 or so regulations that were pending from the Obama administration. I checked and the two pending PSOB regs were not in that group of 700. Additionally, I discovered that they folded the two regulatory actions into one, which is a positive development. No idea if/when that will pass or if it does what form it will take.

I think that covers what is happening with our legislative priorities.

## A BILL

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a better defined IRC specified recruitment and retention incentive program for volunteer emergency service workers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017".

SECTION. 2. ELECTIVE TREATMENT OF LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PLANS AS ELIGIBLE DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—<u>Section 457(e)</u> of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
  - "(19) ADDITIONAL SPECIAL RULES APPLICABLE TO LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PLANS.—
    - "(A) IN GENERAL .—The term 'eligible deferred compensation plan' shall include, at the election of its sponsor, any length of service award plan described in paragraph (11)(A)(ii) which meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (11)(B) . Any such election shall be irrevocable. In the case of a length of service award plan whose sponsor has elected to have such plan treated as an eligible deferred compensation plan, such plan shall be administered in a manner consistent with the requirements of this section and such sponsor shall be treated as an eligible employer described in paragraph (e)(1)(A).

"(B) MAXIMUM DEFERRAL AMOUNT. —In the case of a length of service award plan whose sponsor has elected to have such plan treated as an eligible deferred compensation plan, subsection (b)(2) shall be applied by striking 'the lesser of—' and all that follows and inserting

## A Bill (continued)

'limitation on accruals' described and set forth in paragraph (11)(B) as amended from time to time.

- "(C) DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS.—In the case of a length of service award plan whose sponsor has elected to have such plan treated as an eligible deferred compensation plan, subsection (d)(1)(A)(ii) shall be applied by deeming a severance from employment to have occurred at the payment date under the terms of the plan.
- "(D) EXEMPTION FROM EMPLOYEES RETIRE-MENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974 a length of service award plan described in section 457(e) (11) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 whose sponsor has elected as authorized by section 457(e)(19) of such code to have such plan treated as an eligible deferred compensation plan shall not be an employee pension benefit plan under section 3(2) of the Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29U.S.C.1002(2).
- "(E) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

For a complete note / comment attachment for this bill writing contact your NSFA Board. The extended noted explanations could not be attached in whole.

Jeff Moosman was not only your Ropes Trainer at our 82nd conference he is also one of your two new NSFA Directors. NSFA Director Michael Miller presenting Jeff with his Trainer Appreciation Plaque



Jeff Moosman has been a Firefighter/EMT with the Hawthorne Army Depot Fire Department since March 2006. Jeff is happily married, father of three beautiful children. In Jeff's professional carrier he has received certification in the fallowing Firefighter II, Apparatus Driver Operator, Fire Officer I, Fire Inspector I, Hazardous material incident commanders level, lead certification evaluator, Nevada EMS Instructor I, he is an American Red Cross certified CPR/AED for professional rescuers instructor. Jeff was in charge of operations of a high angle rescue that was performed on a one hundred ten foot water tower saving an injured worker which he received DOD Heroism award in 2008. Jeff has also received DOD western region firefighter of the year 2008, and Hawthorne Army Depot firefighter of the year in 2008 and 2015. Jeff has been tasked with overseeing the technical rescue program for the Hawthorne Army Depot fire department. Jeff received Fire Instructor of the year from the Nevada State Firefighter Association for 2016. Jeff has attended CMC rescue school and has accomplished the following courses, rope rescue I/II, Confined space rescue, Trench Rescue & shoring, Emergency Building & shoring, and rope rescue III. .

He has then obtained certification, Nevada NFPA Technical Rescuer rope rescue level II, Confined space level II, Trench Rescue level II, and structural collapse level II. Also received training at Texas A&M University and received National Pro Board Rope Rescue level 2 Certification. On his time off he enjoys spending time with his family, working out at the gym trying to keep up with the younger firefighter generation, and shooting. Jeff is a NRA certified pistol instructor and Range Safety Officer. Jeff is very humble and grateful to be doing what he does for a living and could not do it without the unconditional love and support from his wife and family, he looks forward to the future learning everything that he can and then sharing that with fellow emergency personal

My name is Joseph Mendoza was born and raised in East Los Angels. I came to Fernley NV to raise my son as a single father just over 10 years ago. My journey in the fire service started in 2011 when I joined North Lyon County Fire Protection District. Since then I have been able to obtain my Firefighter II, Advance EMT, Fire Service Instructor II, NV State EMS instructor and many more certifications. When I joined the fire service I had no idea the district was going to train me to become an actual Firefighter. During the fall the economy a few years ago I was out of work and wanted to keep busy, so I thought I would go down to the local fire department to help clean the station and wash the trucks and do some type of community service. When I went to the fire department to see if I can help out I was a little shocked when they handed me a volunteer application. I thought to myself, all I want to do is dump the trash and clean up.

Once I realized what was actually going on and that the district was going to invest money into me by training me up to become a firefighter I ran with it and went to every training possible. I now work in Central Lyon County Fire Protection District as a reserve firefighter and continue to volunteer in my town. The fire service has been great to me and I'm looking forward to giving back to the service by serving on the board of directors with the NSFA.



#### **Technical Rescue Equipment**

Being that allot of us are all hazard departments, we cover many disciplines, one which is technical rescue. Because of so many different specialties we train on when we do technical rescue training everyone has to re-familiarize themselves with whatever discipline we're training on, as well as the associated equipment.

For years, we have utilized the RPM or RPMS for our rope-rescue system. It is a set of hardware organized on a four-hole anchor plate. The name comes from the equipment used—Bar Rack, Mariners/Load-Release Strap and Pulley. (The RPMS is an identical set-up with the addition of the S for safeties, for which we utilize a tandem set of Prusiks.)

Each year when we participate in rope training refreshers, it seems to take some time to work through the RPM/RPMS system. Eventually, everybody gets it down to an art and remembers how to transition from a raising system to a lowering system. However, in real-life situations, we don't have time to mess with our rope systems until we get it right. It has to be set up, ready to go and deployed—15 minutes ago. This is why I feel strongly that the MPD will be tremendously useful for technical rescue.

So what is the MPD? CMC's website describes it as a variable-friction descent-control device for rope-rescue systems that performs all functions for mainlines, belay lines, tag lines and hoisting lines. This finely engineered piece of equipment has a built-in pulley with a progress capture device, so it can be utilized not just for lowering systems but for raising systems as well. Basically, the MPD can be used as a lowering device on both the mainline and belay line systems, and can be changed over to be utilized for raising.

After researching this, I believe there are several advantages to the MPD over the RPM/RPMS system, the first of which is how simple it is to use. Even though the RPM system is still a good rope-rescue set-up, it does require numerous steps to perform its operations effectively. One of the first operations that was simplified by the MPD was the set-up. Instead of lacing the rope through a bar rack like you would with an RPM system you simply open the face of the MPD and run the rope through the device. CMC uses a reference etching on the device in case you don't remember how the rope should run through the MPD. Once you've correctly installed the rope, your system is ready for operations.

The next advantage is that the MPD could be left in the rope system when performing a changeover—changing from a lowering system to a raising system and using a simple z-rig 3:1 MA (mechanical advantage) system. With the RPM system on the mainline, you must lock off the rope and install the load-release strap in order to remove the bar rack and begin to construct a MA system. Once the bar rack is removed, you then utilize two pulleys to construct your simple 3:1 MA system. With the MPD, you simply lock off by releasing the operation handle and setting the parking brake. Then, utilizing the MPD's built-in pulley, you can add one more pulley to create a simple 3:1 MA system.

Another advantage with the MPD over the RPM system is the cost. I didn't think the MPD could be cheaper than the RPM system; however, once you start to add up all the equipment, there's actually a cost savings. A basic MPD set-up would save money over the current RPM system.

The final advantage with the MPD over the RPM involved its weight and size. With the MPD, less hardware has to be used; therefore, the system is lighter and takes up less storage space. With all its equipment, the MPD system weighs about 10 lbs., while the RPM/RPMS system weighs about 13.5 lbs. Also, with less equipment to deal with, set-up time and orientation of the MPD seemed faster and more efficient than with RPM system.

The benefits of the MPD are truly amazing. I believe this would deliver a faster and more effective service to our customers with the same outstanding professionalism.

Something to look into ..........

Jeff Mooseman

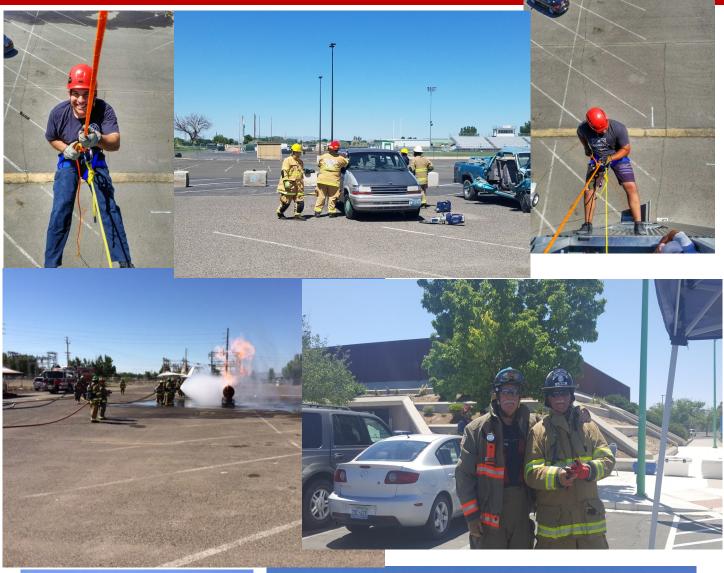
## Fallon Churchill awarded 2017 NFSA Fire Department of the year



# 2017 2018 NSFA Board













## WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE PUMPER!

a future Pumper? You can contact Al Drake at

adrake@nsfa.org

Please include in the E-Mail, your name and the title of your article. Please Send the article in a format fitted for The Pumper.

If any additional information is needed we will contact you through your E-Mail or phone.

Would you like to write an article for OR you can submit the pumper to http://nsfa.org/pumper/

> Just fill out the form and it will be sent automatically to the editor!

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