



FEBRUARY 23, 2023 | ISSUE 39

Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



It's time we talk

The fire service is at crossroads. Many fire service professionals aren't sure how to have intentional conversations about what makes us different, but our future depends on learning how to talk about it.

We want to help you have a solid foundation to address these topics.

The **Human Piece of the Puzzle - Humanistic Approaches to Fire Service Diversity Summit** on Friday, March 31 is the beginning of the Association's efforts to educate and inform our members on our differences.

The objective is to break down common misconceptions of terminology, set individual and larger overarching goals, and identify gaps by having engaging, intentional conversations to foster commitment towards shared goals.

Participants should leave the summit with a good understanding of how to implement best practices and a method for moving forward.

Please [register](#) to let us know you're attending. Lunch will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you on March 31 at 10 a.m. in the Denny at the Fire Academy.



Association event



A different type of bucket brigade

The Cancer Coalition in partnership with State Fire last week filled 500 decon buckets to give to fire departments across South Carolina.

“This has been a long time coming,” said **Tracy Williams**, chair of the Health & Safety Committee and member of the Cancer Coalition.

“We knew we had funds through grants and once we determined we wanted to do decon buckets, it was a matter of COVID hitting and the supply chain slowing the process,” Williams continued. “But through the help of our coalition partners, we were able to secure, store, and stuff those items.”

Included in the buckets: decon wipes, brush, trash bags, tape, dish soap, spray bottle, reducer, hose, spray nozzle, Y adapter, and a flyer with a QR code that leads to information on decon and cancer reduction information.

Many thanks to the members of our bucket brigade for your work in stuffing the buckets.

Community events

Clemson, USC offering first responder discounts



CLEMSON FOOTBALL

South Carolina First Responders Special Offer

Calling all tigers

Come cheer on your tigers when Men's Basketball take on Notre Dame in the final home game of the year on **Saturday, March 4 at 8 p.m.** [Get your tickets](#)



Orange not your color? Gamecock Men's Basketball's got you

USC is saying thank you to first responders by offering discounted tickets to the Men's Basketball game vs. Georgia on **Saturday, March 4 at 1 p.m.** [Grab your tickets](#)



FEMA: Free training on lithium-ion battery

fires

A new 1-hour online course from Underwriters Laboratories' Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) aims to help firefighters understand *how hazards develop during lithium-ion battery incidents*. The training is supported by video footage from FSRI's experiments with the batteries to illustrate the hazards in action.

According to the objectives of the course, firefighters who take the course will be able to:

- Describe the construction of lithium-ion cells and identify the unique characteristics of lithium-ion batteries.
- List the reasons lithium-ion batteries fail and explain the process of thermal runaway.
- Describe the fire and explosion hazards resulting from thermal runaway propagation in lithium-ion batteries.
- Develop strategies to reduce the risk associated with thermal runaway, including fire and explosion hazards.

[Access the course](#) on the FSRI website.

News from the State House



Legislative Update

Each week when the legislature is in session, Association lobbyists Stewart, Konduros, and Associates provide an update on legislation that impacts the fire service. All Legislative Updates for current session are posted on our [website](#).

Today we're looking at 109.16 Active First Responder Tax Credit.

The Executive Budget recommends adding this new proviso creating a \$2,000 income tax credit for tax year 2023 to active sworn law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians. [View the Governor's Executive Budget](#).

Remember to mark your calendar for [Legislative Day](#) on April 5.

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- March 5-10 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer
- [March 16 - 1% Regional Training, Spartanburg County](#)
- [April 5 - Legislative Day](#)
- [April 20 - 1% Regional Training Class: Berkeley County](#)
- [May 16 + 17 - Cleveland School Fire Remembrance](#)
- [June 14-17, 2023 - Fire-Rescue](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Westpark Boulevard 111, 29210, Columbia

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