



OCTOBER 13, 2022 | ISSUE 22

# Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



## Applications for Officer Academy due on Saturday

**“My expectations were definitely exceeded. The true academy aspect of the program brought our class together and I built relationships that I will carry for the rest of my life. Not only did I learn a lot from the instructors and class material, but I also learned a lot from my classmates.” — Long Cane VFD Asst. Chief Blake Schultz, Officer Academy Class 22-01**

Time is ticking to apply for The Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer. **The application deadline is this Saturday, October 15.**

This is not your average officer training program. From the morning physical training sessions to mealtime, **The Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer** is calculated in its approach. This program is for company officers who strive to excel at every facet of the job and aim to be *exceptional*, not just ‘okay.’

*Note that an application is required, including a resume and letter from the applicant’s Chief. Applicants do not need to be a member of the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association Officers Section but membership with the Officers Section is preferred. Applicants will be vetted prior to being accepted into the program and will be sent pre-course assignments*

to be completed prior to final selection. The Fire Officer Academy is limited to 25 people. Cost is \$125.

[Submit your application.](#)



We're hiring! We are seeking applications for [Deputy Director](#) and [Marketing Coordinator](#) for the South Carolina Firefighters Foundation. Both positions are open until filled.

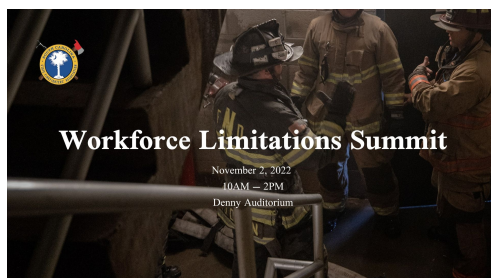
## Association events

### Labor shortage crisis: Let's talk + make plans

We recognize that the South Carolina fire service – both in the career and volunteer sectors – is on the brink of a **labor shortage crisis**.

Staffing shortages aren't unique to the fire service but there are *unique aspects* of the fire service that makes filling those shortages a *significant challenge*.

We are hosting [two summits](#), **Workforce Limitations** and **Volunteer Criticality**, to allow for an open and honest conversation about the issues you're facing and to *figure out the next steps*.



### Workforce Limitations: Nov. 2

A structured, interactive dialogue by participants around the state to discuss and identify trends and needs in addressing **paid staffing shortages**. The objective of the summit is to produce action items at the local, regional, state, and federal level which can positively affect change.

Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-2p.m. in the Denny. [Register.](#)

### Volunteer Criticality: Nov. 5



A structured, interactive dialogue by participants around the state to discuss and identify trends and needs in addressing the maintenance of **volunteer firefighter numbers**. The objective of the summit is to produce action items at the local, regional, state, and federal level which can positively affect change.

Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Denny. [Register](#).



## VFA grant applications due on Saturday

South Carolina Forestry Commission is accepting applications for its [Volunteer Fire Assistance](#) (VFA) grant. The application period closes October 15, 2022.

According to the Forestry Commission's website, "The VFA program offers 50/50 matching-fund grants to local fire departments that want to increase their firefighting capacity, especially for those departments serving communities in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Fire departments serving rural communities with a population of 10,000 or fewer residents are eligible for VFA grants.

Through financial assistance in purchasing wildland firefighting equipment and making necessary training available, rural volunteer fire departments can more effectively and safely assist the Forestry Commission in dealing with wildland fires that threaten the rural developments and communities they serve."

[Apply for a VFA grant.](#)





## Now accepting: Nominations for awards

We hear “I was just doing my job” all the time—but *you don't have a normal job.*

We want to recognize instructors and firefighters from all stages of their careers for their courageous acts of valor or outstanding leadership skills.

Submit an award application and be recognized by your peers for your efforts!

To have your nomination considered for a 2022 award, please submit by January 31, 2023.



## New member benefit: Home generator installations

The Member Benefits Committee actively seeks partnerships with business and organizations to offer our members discounts on services and products. The newest member benefit is timely given the recent hurricane activity: [Generator Services, Inc.](http://www.generatorservicesinc.com), out of West Columbia, is offering Association members a \$500 discount on home standby generator installations. Reach out to **Ken Britton** (803-319-5049) or **Dillon Harper** (803-391-5411) to get started.

- [October 15 - Applications due for Officer Academy](#)
- [November 2 - Workforce](#)



[Limitations Summit](#)

- [November 5 - Volunteer Criticality Summit](#)
- [January 26-29, 2023 - Fire Service Improvement Conference](#)



## **South Carolina State Firefighters' Association**

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