



AUGUST 17, 2023 | ISSUE 63

# Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



## We need your help: Recruitment survey

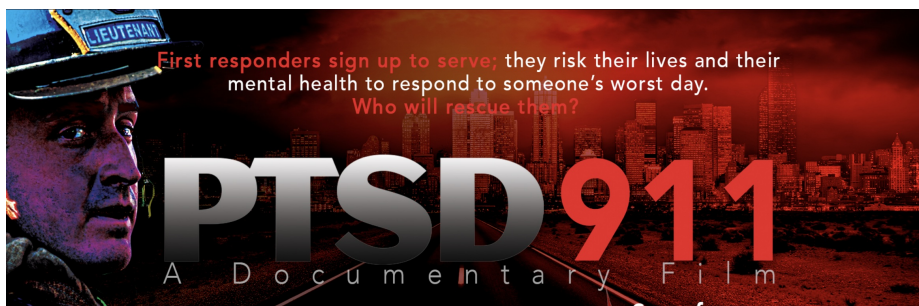
One of President **Malcolm Burns'** goals for his presidency is to assist South Carolina fire departments in their recruitment and retention efforts. The **Recruitment and Retention Committee** is asking South Carolina fire chiefs to complete a recruitment survey to get a good understanding of what works for departments, what doesn't work, and everything in between.

Fire chiefs received an email last week with the initial request for participation.

It is vitally important for the Recruitment and Retention Committee to hear from as many South Carolina fire chiefs as possible because more data provides a broader perspective on the recruitment issues plaguing the state's fire service and allows the Committee to identify actionable needs on the state level.

***If you are a South Carolina fire chief***, please share your recruitment stories and assist the Recruitment and Retention Committee in their efforts by completing [their survey](#).

**Association event**



## New date + location for PTSD911 showing

**South Carolina First Responders Assistance and Support Team** has partnered with **ConjoStudios, LLC** to screen the PTSD911 documentary in Columbia, Greenville, and recently added a third screening in North Myrtle Beach. Tickets are \$10.

[PTSD911](#) is a documentary about first responders and the lingering issues from repeat trauma. According to the documentary website, "PTSD911 will provide information about a path forward from PTSD that does not lead to suicide, but rather leads to return to a fulfilling life that involves serving others."

- [September 27 — North Myrtle Beach, The Conference Center at Barefoot Resort](#)
- [September 28 — Columbia, Calvary Chapel Northeast](#)
- [September 29 — Greenville, Boiling Springs Station 15](#)

Each screening will feature a Q&A with documentary director Conrad Weaver and members of the public safety community in the area.

## Editorial from NFPA

### The rise and risks of lithium-ion batteries

The increased use of **lithium-ion batteries** in everyday technology like cellphones and e-scooters has made it essential for the public and first responders to be aware of the battery's potential safety hazards. **National Fire Protection** President/CEO **Jim Pauley** writes about these concerns in [this editorial](#), emphasizing the need for safety measures and providing resources to address these risks.

## Association deadline



## Apply for Leadership Institute before August 31

When you experience **Leadership Institute**, your perspective on the fire service inevitably shifts. You're exposed to departments of all sizes that face *challenges* of all sizes. You're networking with peers from across the state who bring with them their unique experiences and beliefs. Leadership Institute is a vehicle for you to advance the South Carolina fire service while excelling in your career.

[Applications](#) are being accepted until August 31 at 5 p.m.



**Community events**





## Details on 9/11 Lowcountry Memorial Motorcycle Ride

The third annual **9/11 Lowcountry Memorial Motorcycle Bike Ride** is on Sunday, September 10 at Geno's Place in Goose Creek with ceremonies beginning at 10 a.m. and the ride starting at 11 a.m. A waiver must be signed prior to participating. Riders will receive a red wrist band to wear after sign-up and commemorative patches will be given out (1 per bike). Free breakfast will be available while supplies last. After the ride, lunch plates will be available at \$10 per plate.

Bikers are asked to put an American flag on your motorcycle. There is no charge to participate.

**Aiken County's  
Heroes Remembered Walk**

**September 9, 2023**  
*Saturday*  
**O'Dell Weeks Park**  
**Whiskey Road**  
**8:00am – 10:00am**

*Graphic credits to Aiken County's Heroes Remembered Walk Facebook*

## Aiken area: Save the date for Heroes Remembered Walk

The **Aiken County Heroes Remembered Walk**, sponsored by **Aiken County Firefighters' Association** and **Tailored Tours of Aiken**, is on Saturday, September 9 at O'Dell Weeks Park from 8-10 a.m. In addition to paying homage to the brave men and women who died on September 11, 2001, local firefighters Drew Barr and Jeffrey Swartz, and officers Scotty Richardson, Sandy Rogers, and Jason Shepherd will be recognized.

## From our partners at LegalShield

### August is Wills Month

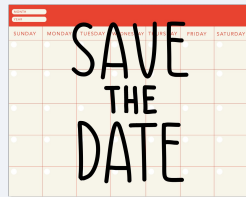
August is **National Make a Will Month**, and it serves as a reminder the importance of having a Will. LegalShield, a partner of the Association, includes Will preparation as part of its many benefits offered at no extra cost for you and your spouse.

With a Will, you can:

- Reduce the stress and financial burden on your loved ones
- Decide who will receive your assets and property
- Decide who will care for any of your dependent children
- Ensure a safe home for your pets
- Provide any specific funeral arrangement requests

Visit the [LegalShield website](#) to enroll.

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- [August 24 - 1% Regional Training Class: Beaufort County](#)
- [October 1-6 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer class 23-02](#)
- [October 17 - 1% Regional Training Class: York County](#)
- October 25 - Quarterly Training + Business Meeting
- January 18-21 - Fire Service Improvement Conference
- June 12-15, 2024 - Fire-Rescue



### South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Westpark Boulevard 111, 29210, Columbia

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