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Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



Black History Month Spotlight: Assistant Chief Mickey Folsom

Like so many others, a young **Mickey Folsom** found himself in need of a job but wasn't interested in a traditional 9-5. He applied to the **Columbia Richland Fire Department** and quickly realized this was more than a job—*this was his passion.*

"It felt divine that the fire service chose me," he said.

Fast forward a few decades and that same young man is now Assistant Chief, overseeing Columbia fire's Administrative Division. His list of responsibilities is daunting, including overseeing of a \$40+ million-dollar budget, supervising personnel in aspects of emergency scene activities, implementing administrative strategy, and tackling any day-to-day problem that comes his way in a department of several hundred members.

February is **Black History Month** and Chief Folsom, chair of the Association's **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee**, refers to it as a time of reflection.

"If we don't improve on the history, if we don't improve where we come from or where we've been, then sometimes history repeats itself," Folsom said. "It shines a light on what we can do for the future without forgetting the past."

Firefighters train rigorously for every possible eventuality on the fireground. Muscle memory is important and training is vital. Learning how to become comfortable having intentional conversations about uncomfortable topics, in contrast, requires a different way of thinking, one that comes with no manual, no standards.

That phrase—*intentional conversations*—is important to Chief Folsom and one that he keeps coming back to. Being *intentional* about the words we use, our demeanor, our tone, all help break down barriers because at the end of the day, “we’re all more alike than we are different.”

“As firefighters, we go straight to a fire and know what to do,” Folsom continues, “But for us to be a better community, for us to give the community better service, then we have to have those conversations to say, ‘Okay, are we including everyone?’”

Association event



Fire Service Improvement Conference recap

One conference. Four days. Nine classes. 150 students.

When firefighters from around the state come together to train, share experiences, network, and fellowship, amazing things happen.

We saw that first hand last week during [Fire Service Improvement Conference](#).

Nearly everyone has heard “you can’t train enough for a job that can kill you” and it’s true. The time and effort you put into training for the different scenarios you face can save a life.

While practice may not make perfect, it makes progress, and you owe it to yourself and your community to work to get better every day.

Thanks to everyone who chose to train with us. Many thanks to the outstanding instructors and vendors for your support. To Columbia Richland Fire Department, Lexington County Fire Service, Irmo Fire Department, and Kershaw County Fire, we couldn't do FSIC without you. Thank you!



Community event



Stingrays Hockey: First responder night is March 4

As a thank you to all of our first responders, Stingrays Hockey is inviting you to their annual First Responders Night at the North Charleston Coliseum on **March 4** at 6:05 p.m. First Responders will be honored during the match as a thank you for protecting and serving the community.

[Purchase your tickets.](#)

As a reminder, the North Charleston Coliseum has a clear bag policy.



Together with Truist

Successfully plan for your future in the upcoming *Credit* webinar with Truist. With 2 time slots to choose from, this 30-minute presentation is built to help you learn the difference between your credit report and your

credit score, understand the best way to pull your credit report and free tools that provide your credit score, and gain insight on why credit scores play such an important role in your financial life.

- [Attend the Credit session on March 8, 2023 at 11 a.m.](#)
- [Attend the Credit session on March 8, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.](#)

This opportunity is exclusively for South Carolina State Firefighters' Association members.

News from the State House



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 taking a look at the Association's [agenda](#) for this Legislative Session.

Some important notes:

- First year of a two-year session
- Legislation not enacted during the 2023 session will hold its place in the legislative process and carry over to the 2024 session
- Crossover deadline is Thursday, April 6 (last legislative day before April 10) for legislation to pass from one chamber to the other; after this date a 2/3 vote of the receiving chamber is required to consider a bill

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- [February 4, 2023 - 1% Regional Training, Abbeville County](#)
- [February 11, 2023 - Firefighter Memorial Service](#)



- [February 13, 2023 - 1% Regional Training, Orangeburg County](#)
- March 5-10, 2023 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer
- [March 16, 2023 - 1% Regional Training, Spartanburg County](#)
- [May 16 + 17 - Cleveland School Fire Remembrance](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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