



OCTOBER 26, 2023 | ISSUE 73

Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



Here's what you missed at Quarterly

We hosted yesterday our Quarterly Training and Business Meeting at Trident Technical College in Charleston featuring speakers **Dr. Candice McDonald**, Deputy CEO at the National Volunteer Fire Council, **Rebecca Harned**, data advisor for the U.S. Fire Administration and Chief Programs Officer for the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and **Chief Tom Jenkins**, senior advisor/research manager for the NERIS project.

Dr. McDonald shared the key themes from her doctoral research during her "Igniting Firefighter Recruitment & Retention Efforts" presentation. Her talk addressed the importance of: knowing the numbers, knowing the why, and knowing the tools.

"We can't make those assumptions, we have to have those conversations," she addressed the group. "Ask, 'What do you need from us to help you be successful?'"

You can reach Dr. McDonald at Candice@nvfc.org and view all NVFC resources [online](#), including the customizable [Make Me a Firefighter](#) campaign toolkit. You may also direct any questions about NVFC to our NVFC Directors [Jack Kirlin](#) and [Keith Minick](#).

Rebecca Harned and Chief Tom Jenkins with the U.S. Fire Administration facilitated a brief discussion on the changes you can expect when the data reporting system moves from NFRIS to NERIS. While the transition is

not anticipated to be complete until the end of 2025, expect in the next 12 months: community stakeholder engagement, feedback opportunities, and listening sessions; the development and release of version 1 of NERIS core data standard schemas and guide; completed NERIS Initial Operating Capability/prototype (IOC) and onboarding select fire departments as testers and early adopters; the launch of NERIS version 1 and an outreach campaign to facilitate onboarding fire departments (Fall 2024).

Read through the [NERIS FAQs](#), watch the [overview video](#), and keep up with the latest NERIS developments on the [USFA website](#).



Time's ticking to apply for OA 24-01 in March

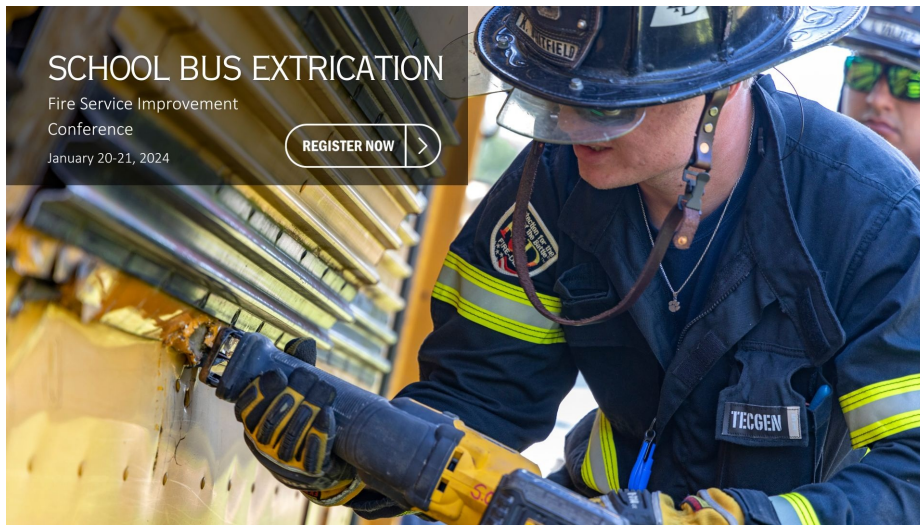
Company officers—the **deadline to apply for Fire Officer Academy 24-01 is October 31 by 11:59 p.m.**

This is your opportunity to take your career to the next level. The experience is worth the extensive application process, hours of online work, and grueling in-person schedule. Trust that what is asked of you has a reason. Trust the process, because it works.

The Fire Officer Academy provides comprehensive training for current and aspiring fire officers, covering a wide range of topics and techniques. The program is intentional in its approach and the in-person selection process is competitive; don't let the application deadline sneak up on you! The details matter.

We hope to see you March 3-8, 2024 for OA 24-01. Good luck.

[Submit your application.](#)



SCHOOL BUS EXTRICATION

Fire Service Improvement
Conference

January 20-21, 2024

REGISTER NOW



FSIC course spotlight: School Bus Extrication

School Bus Extrication, January 20-21, 2024, during Fire Service Improvement Conference, is an essential training program for first responders who may need to extricate a trapped patient from a school bus.

Multi-passenger vehicles like school buses create a unique challenge which requires specialized knowledge and skills; this course will provide rescuers with the necessary know-how to tackle these situations. The classroom portion of the course covers several important topics, including the different types of school buses, construction standards, and anatomy. Students will gain hands-on experience during field exercises where they will stabilize a school bus, remove windows, seats, breach the sidewall and rear of the bus, and tackle the challenges of a Mass Casualty Incident.

Register for [School Bus Extrication during Fire Service Improvement Conference](#).

Community events



Bluffton hosting T2T next month

Lowcountry residents, Bluffton is hosting **Tunnel to Towers** on Sunday, November 12 at 9 a.m. at Rose Hill Plantation. According to the Tunnel to Towers website, the series “was created to honor the heroic life and death of Stephen Siller, a New York City firefighter (FDNY) who lost his life on September 11, 2001 after strapping on his gear and running through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the Twin Towers.”

[Register for Tunnel to Towers Bluffton.](#)



From the web



FIRE SERVICE

DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT TOOLKIT



Discrimination & Harassment Toolkit available from Women in Fire + NVFC

Women in Fire and **National Volunteer Fire Council** have collaborated to release a [Fire Service Discrimination & Harassment Toolkit](#). This goal of the toolkit is to dismantle discrimination and harassment within the fire service and to provide guidance on how to approach different scenarios. The toolkit includes resources such as a model policy, training materials, and guidance documents to assist fire departments in creating a positive and inclusive culture.

NVFC Maryland Director **David Lewis** said in the [press release](#), "Every emergency response leader must accept that discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated in the workplace. This applies equally in workplaces employing paid and/or volunteer personnel. Ignorance of the

laws, regulations, and requirements cannot be held as an excuse for not taking appropriate action. The Fire Service Discrimination and Harassment Toolkit is an excellent reference resource on the legal framework on discrimination and harassment and should be used in every officer development training program as well as be a stand ready reference guide on every officer's bookshelf."

NVFC and WiF consulted with an attorney on the content of the toolkit. However, it is important to note that the Fire Service Discrimination & Harassment Toolkit does not contain legal advice and is not a replacement for an attorney.

Was this email forwarded to you? Subscribe to receive Rattle Watch every Thursday.



- [January 18-21 - Fire Service Improvement Conference](#)
- February 3, 2024 - Firefighter Memorial Service
- [March 3-8, 2024 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer 24-01](#)
- April 17, 2024 - Legislative Day
- [June 12-15, 2024 - Fire-Rescue](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Westpark Boulevard 111, 29210, Columbia

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}
You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#)