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Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.

FIRE CHIEF'S HANDBOOK

South Carolina State Firefighters' Association Executive Committee

REVISED JULY 2023



The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association Fire Chief's Handbook is a living document that is intended to give state-specific advice to current and aspiring Chief officers on important management tasks and responsibilities for the rank. The contents are applicable to volunteer and career Chief officers equally.

The reader will notice many references and links that will supplement the information in this handbook with additional important details.

NOW AVAILABLE: Updated Fire Chief's Handbook

Revised in July 2023, The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association Fire Chief's Handbook is a resource intended to help guide volunteer and career Chief Officers equally as they navigate their role in the department. We hope this resource provides you with advice and guidance on issues you will or have faced.

Included in the Handbook are chapters on government operations and how it relates to the fire service, State Fire and its role, information on grants and budget justifications, training, NFPA standards, ceremonies, Insurance Services Office, One Percent, and much, much more.

The Handbook *is not a be-all for how to be a Chief Officer*, however, the contents address the majority of must-know information. The PDF is easily searchable with the chapter titles linked to the beginning of the chapter, and specific page numbers are provided for subchapters and topics.

It is important to note that this is a living document and will be updated on a needs-basis. All updated versions of the Handbook will be available on our website.

You can access the Handbook and forms referenced in the Handbook on our [website](#).

Download the PDF to have it handy on your computer or print it out as a reference!

Association news



Apply to present at Fire-Rescue 2024

The **Training and Education Committee** is looking forward to providing our members with another excellent Fire-Rescue conference next June. Our goal is to provide our members with a diverse range of perspectives and insights that will help them stay up to date with the latest trends and best practices.

The South Carolina fire service is overflowing with talent, and we strongly believe in the value local speakers bring to conference. We are proud to provide our members with a platform that allows them to continue to progress the fire service as a whole and grow as individuals. Fire-Rescue provides speakers an opportunity to educate, network, and expand their brand.

If you're knowledgeable and passionate about a topic and have a program developed, consider applying to speak at Fire-Rescue 2024 and allow the Training and Education Committee the opportunity to review your application.

Make sure to submit your [application](#) by **September 30, 2023** to meet the deadline.



Association event



SC FAST's Mile In Our Boots is next month

The **South Carolina State Firefighters' Association's First Responder Support and Assistance Team** (SC FAST) is hosting its second clinicians training September 21-24 in Walterboro at Colleton County Fire-Rescue.

A **Mile In Our Boots Clinicians Academy** aims to assist clinicians in recognizing stressors of first responders in both their personal lives and during emergency responses. Participating clinicians will acquire an enhanced understanding of mental and physical stresses that face our first responders through participating in interactive sessions with first responders themselves, develop awareness of challenges outside the job (such as family that can directly impact the responder) and utilize the knowledge gained to help enhance future sessions with first responder clients through new perspectives gained from the academy.

"The experience was inspiring and a reminder of the sacrifices first responders endure while trying to take care of their communities," said Jennifer Miller, clinician at Counseling Plus in Lexington and graduate of the first Mile In Our Boots in 2022.

"The shift life and dealing with the unknown on a daily basis can affect daily functioning and I felt reminded of that, even as a combat veteran, after that first day of training due to the adrenaline and hyper arousal it was hard to settle down and take care of daily functioning needs, reminding me of the trust that I want first responders to have when they come in to my office and allow me to help them through a difficult time," she continued.

Find more details about Mile In Our Boots and see photos from last year's academy on the SC FAST [website](#).

Community event



Details on the Charleston 9/11 Silent Walk

A decade ago, **Tian Griffith**, **John Johnston**, **Ray Kozik**, **Andrew Spratt**, and **David Hanley** got together to honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Since the inception of the 9/11 Silent Walk, over 5,500 people have walked to remember the souls gone too soon.

The 10th annual 9/11 Silent Walk is on Monday, September 11 at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant.

A remembrance ceremony will immediately follow the walk at 11 a.m. on the Flight Deck of the USS Yorktown. The ceremony is limited to 300 attendees.

The 9/11 Silent Walk is [free](#) for the community.



We need you to join the National Firefighter Registry

You can be a part of helping scientists understand the links between

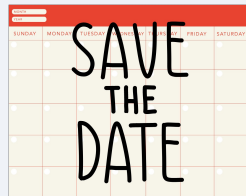
firefighting and cancer.

The **National Firefighter Registry** (NFR) is the largest existing effort to understand and reduce cancer risk among firefighters. When you sign up for the NFR, researchers will match information you provide to cancer diagnosis information from state cancer registries. This will allow them to study the relationship between firefighting and cancer outcomes.

The NFR is open to all U.S. firefighters – paid or volunteer, active or retired, with or without cancer.

Answer the call. [Join the NFR today.](#)

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



- [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
- June 12-15, 2024 - Fire-Rescue



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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