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Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



Historical Spotlight: Chief Tommy Livingston

Tommy Livingston's journey in the fire service started as a young boy in the 7th grade. He grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina, and would walk by the local fire department on his way to school. Over time, the firefighters at this station invited him in, showed him around, gave him coffee and doughnuts, and ultimately helped shape Tommy's future.

The Livingstons moved in 1954 from Charlotte to Hartsville, South Carolina, where Tommy worked at an industrial plant until it closed in 1964. He did a brief stint in the insurance industry before getting a call from a friend letting him know the fire department was hiring. Tommy knew Fire Chief **Charlie Denny**, President of the Association from 1972-73, because Chief Denny owned the Western Auto in town; so, when Tommy called Chief Denny, "that opened the door" for Tommy's fire service career. He's had many supporters over the years but none quite like Chief Denny.

"Chief Charlie Denny was like my daddy. He influenced me, encouraged me after he hired me," Chief Livingston said. Tommy Livingston started his journey with the Hartsville Fire Department on September 5, 1965, and never looked back.

Tommy would ultimately follow in Chief Denny's footsteps on the state level when he served as President of the Association from 1983-84, nearly a decade after Chief Denny's tenure.

"I chose the greatest profession I could have got into," he said. Now, after decades of service, Chief Livingston is chaplain for the Darlington County Fire Service, works at the local funeral home, remains active in his church, and still attends department meetings despite having retired several years ago.

"I can look back and see the fruit that I influenced," Chief Livingston said as he reminisced on his career and the lives he helped shape.

Chief Livingston's advice to the next generation is simple: make up your mind and commit to the job.

Watch our [full interview](#) with Chief Livingston.

Association event

save the date

QUARTERLY TRAINING + BUSINESS MEETING

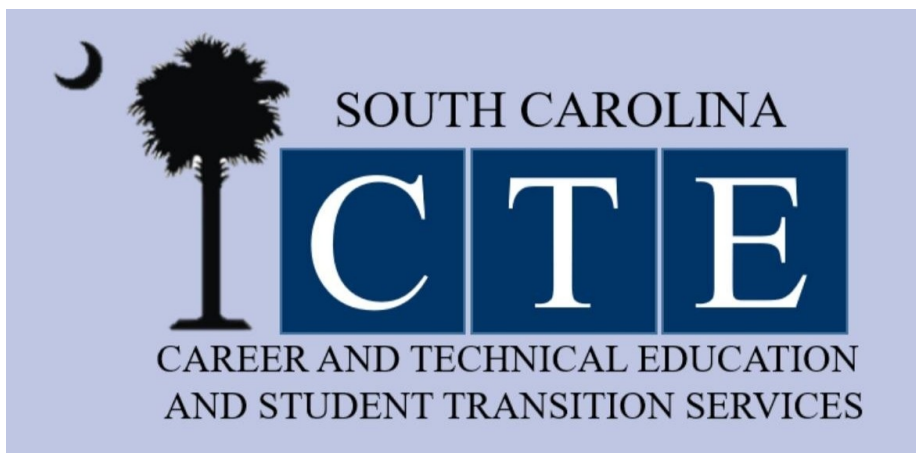
October 25, 2023

You're invited: Quarterly Training on October 25

Join us for Quarterly on Wednesday, October 25 at 10 a.m. in the Denny. The event features a morning training seminar and an afternoon business meeting where committee chairs and Association leadership will provide updates on their efforts. We look forward to seeing you there!

Speaker and registration information will be announced in the coming weeks.





CTE offers clear path to career in public safety

Is your high school student interested in a career in public safety? The South Carolina Career and Technical Education (CTE) program can help them achieve their dreams while earning their high school diploma.

Students interested in the fire service can earn Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 while still in high school, paving a clear path for success after graduation. Dozens of high schools across the state participate in the Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Cluster that includes Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2.

Browse the [CTE Student Reporting Procedures Guide for 2023-24](#) and [find more information on CTE programs](#).



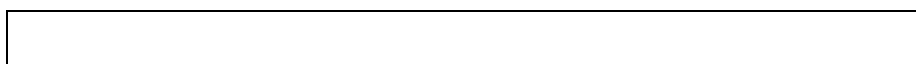
NVFC announces Tesla as newest Advocate Member

Electric vehicles—Teslas, in particular—are becoming more and more common on South Carolina roads. The EV automaker's partnership with NVFC comes at a time when first responders are having to navigate the new reality of lithium-ion battery incidents.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) recently announced Tesla as an Advocate Member, signifying a dedication to helping fire departments and first responders safely handle emergency situations involving Tesla products. According to the NVFC website, "Corporate members support the NVFC's programs and initiatives and the future of volunteer fire and emergency services."

[Here are the Emergency Response Guides for all Tesla vehicles.](#)

Community event





FIERO Station Design Symposium is in September

Our friends at **Fire Industry Education Resource Organization (FIERO)** are hosting a Station Design Symposium at the Hyatt Regency Greenville from Sept. 24-27 where attendees will learn the latest innovative ideas about contamination control, streamlined design, cost-saving measures, and environmentally friendly practices that can be employed in and around your emergency facilities.

[View the full schedule and register for the symposium.](#)



FPW is October 8-14, 2023

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored Fire Prevention Week since 1922. The public health education campaign is observed annually the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed over 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed over 17,000 buildings, and burned 2,000 acres of land. Fire Prevention Week is October 8-14, 2023 and this year's theme is "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™."

According to the NFPA news release, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths.

“Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA in the FPW press release. “These numbers tell us that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking.”

Find more [Fire Prevention Week resources](#) and get an early start on planning your department's FPW efforts.

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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