



SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 | ISSUE 19

Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



NOW ACCEPTING: Applications for Officer Academy

[The Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer](#) is an intense program not designed for the complacent. The Company Officer tests students in ways they haven't been tested since they joined the fire service, leaving a lasting impression on the trajectory of their career and the camaraderie between students creates a lifelong family. The Company Officer takes you back to the basics while addressing the issues you face as a leader in your department.

Every detail about every day is intentional. This program is designed specifically to develop the decision-making, time-management and leadership skills that separate good company officers from great company officers.

From the morning physical training sessions to mealtime, **The Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer** is calculated in its approach as it aims to uplift, test, and challenge the leaders of the South Carolina fire service.

The week-long Fire Officer Academy is held at the South Carolina Fire Academy where students will stay on campus in a platoon style environment. Daily activities include physical fitness drills, projects, hearing from guest speakers and live burn evaluations.

Note that an application is required, including a resume and letter from the applicant's Chief. Applicants do not need to be a member of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association Officers Section but membership with the Officers Section is preferred. Applications will be vetted prior to being accepted into the program and will be sent pre-course assignments to be completed prior to final selection. The Fire Officer Academy is limited to 25 people. Cost is \$125.

[Application deadline is **October 15.**](#)



Association event

AMBASSADORS PROGRAM MEETING

Friday, September 23 at 6 p.m.



via Zoom and Facebook Live

scfirefighters.org



September Ambassadors meeting: New start time

Our monthly Ambassadors Program Meeting is tomorrow, **Friday, September 23 at 6 p.m.** via [Zoom](#) and [Facebook Live](#).

Note that the meeting time is at 6 p.m. instead of our regularly scheduled 10 a.m.

We hope the evening time slot will allow you to watch and participate! On this month's agenda: [Officers Section](#) (with an update on the **Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer**); [Quarterly Training](#); and preparing for [Fire Prevention Month](#) with State Fire.

Watch the [August Ambassadors Program](#) meeting with special guest [Corley Moore](#).



Scenes from A Mile in Our Boots

The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association's First Responder Support and Assistance Team ([SC FAST](#)) held its first-ever clinicians training September 16-18 in Walterboro at Colleton County Fire-Rescue. **A Mile in Our Boots Clinicians Academy** is the first program of its kind and aimed to assist clinicians in recognizing stressors of first responders in both their personal lives and during emergency responses.

Thank you to the clinicians who participated—your enthusiasm and willingness to learn was admirable! To the volunteers who logged countless hours preparing for the event and during the training, a simple 'thank you' will never suffice.

We're excited to see this program make a difference in the lives of our state's first responders.

Community event



Camden's FIREFEST is on Saturday

Camden Fire Department hosts [FireFest](#) annually in September ahead of Fire Prevention Week in early October. The event features live burns, an apparatus cruise in, an Explorer competition, a kid's zone, parade, and new this year, the 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Museum. FireFest is on Saturday, September 24 at the Camden City Arena. The parade starts at 9 a.m. on Rutledge Street and will end at the City Arena.

Admission to FireFest is free.



Apply for VFA Grant before Oct. 15

South Carolina Forestry Commission is accepting applications for its [Volunteer Fire Assistance \(VFA\)](#) grant. The application period closes October 15, 2022.

According to the Forestry Commission's website, "The VFA program offers 50/50 matching-fund grants to local fire departments that want to increase their firefighting capacity, especially for those departments serving communities in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Fire departments serving rural communities with a population of 10,000 or fewer residents are eligible for VFA grants.

Through financial assistance in purchasing wildland firefighting equipment and making necessary training available, rural volunteer fire departments can more effectively and safely assist the Forestry Commission in dealing with wildland fires that threaten the rural developments and communities they serve."

[Apply for a VFA grant.](#)



Invite SCFIS to speak to your department

[South Carolina Firefighters Insurance Services](#) prides itself on first-class customer service. Whether it is assisting a department or handling a claim, you will experience superior customer service from each member of SCFIS staff.

Contact Marcia Greer at marcia@scfirefighters.org or 803-767-4851 to have SCFIS speak to your department.

The South Carolina Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan became effective July 1, 2021. The legislature appropriated funding in the FY 2021-2022 budget for State Fire to purchase an insurance policy to provide the benefits defined in the statute. After a competitive bidding process, managed by the South Carolina Division of Procurement Services, the contract for the insurance policy was awarded to AXIS Insurance Company. AXIS will be utilizing Provident Agency, Inc., for claims management and processing and the South Carolina Firefighters Insurance Services for local claims assistance.

[Find more information and file a claim.](#)



- [September 23 - Ambassadors Program Meeting via FB Live](#)
- [October 12 - Quarterly Training + Business Meeting](#)
- [January 26-29, 2023 - Fire Service Improvement](#)

[Conference](#)

- [March 5-10, 2023 - Fire Officer Academy: The Company Officer](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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