



JUNE 22, 2023 | ISSUE 55

Rattle Watch

Proudly informing South Carolina firefighters.



Meet the 77th President of the Association: Malcolm Burns

[Malcolm Burns](#), Deputy Chief at Dorchester County Fire Rescue, was sworn in as the 77th President of the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association at the conclusion of Fire-Rescue on June 17, 2023. President Burns follows immediate Past President [Josh Holzheimer](#), Deputy Chief at City of Greer.

"As a small town fire chief, I knew what I knew to keep my department running... I would've never guessed that, this short time later, I would be standing here in this position talking to you folks. Don't set limits on yourself," President Burns said during his incoming remarks.

President Burns thanked his family, chief, and friends for their support over his time serving on the Executive Committee and gave a brief summary of his goals for his Presidency.

"We have a dire issue that is plaguing all aspects of public safety," President Burns continued, "and that's getting people... My goal this year is to start an ad-hoc committee on recruitment and retention."

Watch President Burns' speech during the [Transfer of Command ceremonies](#) on our YouTube.



Election results are in

Voting members elected Greenville County Deputy Director of Emergency Management Pierce Womack (pictured left) as 3rd Vice President and Clarendon County Deputy Chief Jason Dennis (pictured right) as 4th Vice President. The resignation of Jamie Helms as 2nd Vice President left an additional vacant seat on the Executive Committee, necessitating a vote for both 3rd and 4th VP positions. Congrats, Pierce and Jason!



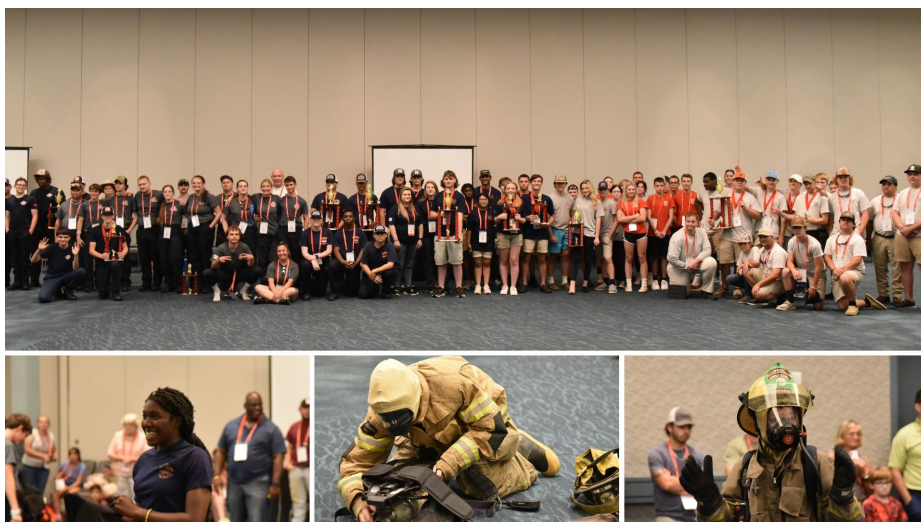
Golf Tournament was a success

The Foundation had an amazing turnout for the Golf Tournament at Legends Golf Resort on Wednesday, June 14. Congratulations to our winners and all who played—*we're just glad everyone had fun*. The tournament sold out and we saw many familiar faces from tournaments past. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Firefighters Foundation!



Beach Bash with SCFIS recap

The Beach Bash with South Carolina Firefighter Insurance Services and partners saw several hundred firefighters and their families from across the state gather for good music, yummy food, and cold drinks! We are always happy to host you and your families. Thanks for coming out!



The future of the fire service on display

The future of the fire service was on display during the Junior/Explorer Competition on Friday, June 16. Myrtle Beach news station WMBF [covered the event](#). Congratulations to our winners and all who participated!



Thank you to our Fire-Rescue 2023 speakers

Fire-Rescue wouldn't be the success that it is year after year if it weren't for our instructors and the Training & Education Committee that selects the speakers. If you enjoyed this year's lineup, thank a member of the T&E Committee!

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 T&E Committee the opportunity to review your application. Submit before September 30!



132 departments awarded FireSafe designation

132 fire departments were rewarded for their community risk reduction efforts during the Fire Safe South Carolina designation ceremony at Fire-Rescue. These communities continually work to reduce fire-related injuries, promote consistent fire safety messaging, and stress the importance of providing all relative data collected at fire scenes.

“Nearly one million citizens were educated last year on ways to stay fire safe thanks to the commitment and dedication of our 132 Fire Safe South Carolina fire departments and our community partners,” South Carolina State Fire Marshal CRR Section Chief Josh Fulbright said in the Fire Safe SC [press release](#). “The efforts will not stop there as we continue to work together to educate more people and make South Carolina fire safe.”

Watch the Fire Safe SC presentations on our [YouTube channel](#).



Community event



16 years later: Nine Charleston firefighters remembered

The Charleston Fire Department commemorated on Sunday, June 18, 2023 the 16-year anniversary of the line-of-duty loss of nine firefighters during the tragic Sofa Superstore fire. A recording of the memorial service is [available](#).

Today and every day, we remember:

- Firefighter Brandon Thompson
- Engineer Bradford "Brad" Baity
- Captain Louis Mulkey
- Engineer Mark Kelsey
- Captain Mike Benke
- Captain William Hutchinson
- Firefighter Melvin Champaign
- Assistant Engineer Michael French
- Firefighter James "Earl" Drayton

Association event



Applications are being accepted for

Officer Academy Class 23-02

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.

Note that an application is required, including a resume, cover letter, 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.

[Applications are due June 30, 2023.](#)



See you next June

We're already counting down the days 'til Fire-Rescue 2024. It is truly a pleasure to host conference every year. Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

Check out [pictures from Fire-Rescue 2023](#) and go ahead and get **Fire-Rescue, June 12-15, 2024 on the books.**

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



- [July 18 - 1% Regional Training Class: Lexington County](#)
- [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](#)



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

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