



**Nevada State
Firefighter's Association**

The PUMPER

BY: TRAVIS FLESHER

**WINTER 2015
ARTICLES WELCOME**

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CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

Each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer.

Picking the tree

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1" - 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

- Never use lit candles to deco-



rate the tree.

- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

What you can do to help

A small amount of prevention can be the number one thing that can save lives this Christmas! So please do your part and educate, first your department on identifying hazards you may see on a call or just around friends or families homes. And second get out here and do Christmas tree fire prevention at schools, business, or even put on a demonstration on how fast a dry Christmas tree can ignite into flames for the public.

Be safe out the and enjoy your holidays

- Mark Flesher



Remember!
Follow Christmas Tree safety at ALL times!

NVFC FOCUS AT FALL BOARD MEETING

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) Board of Directors met in Concord, NC, on October 21-23, 2015. Representatives from 40 state associations attended, including Steve McClintock from Nevada State Firefighters Association.

The NVFC serves as the voice of the over 800,000 volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue personnel in the U.S. The organization provides advocacy, resources, education, and programs to help the volunteer fire and emergency services thrive. The NVFC board is comprised of up to two representatives from 48 state fire associations and meets as a whole twice a year to conduct Council business and address key issues in the nation's fire and emergency services. There were 41 States represented at the meeting in North Carolina.

Below are highlights from the 2015 fall meeting.

Looking Forward

The NVFC board focused on the future of the NVFC with a strategic planning session that included updating the goals for the future of the organization. In addition, the board discussed re-

freshing the NVFC's logo in conjunction with the Council's 40th anniversary celebration in 2016.

Recruitment and Retention

Thanks to support from a federal SAFER grant, the NVFC is launching a nationwide volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention campaign. Departments can go to <http://portal.nvfc.org> to post their volunteer opportunities, create customized recruitment materials, and access additional tools for recruiting new members. The public can go to www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org to find local volunteer opportunities and learn more about the fire and emergency services.

Shell Pipeline Company LP has partnered with the NVFC to promote the campaign to the NASCAR audience. The No. 22 Shell Pennzoil Ford Fusion featured the campaign logo on its deck lid at the Federated Auto Parts 400 Sprint Cup Series Race at Richmond International Raceway in September, and driver Joey Logano is recording a PSA to let the public know about the campaign.

During the fall meeting, Logano and representatives from Shell presented the deck lid to the NVFC board. Shell also provided an update on pipeline safety

initiatives.

In addition, the board attended a pilot course on increasing diversity in the fire service, which is one of several courses being developed as part of the recruitment and retention campaign.

Committee Meetings

Many of the NVFC's Committees met to address key emergency service issues, including the inaugural meeting of the NVFC's new Hazmat Response Committee. The EMS/Rescue Section and the NVFC Foundation board also met. Steve McClintock Chaired the Conference Committee as well as Vice Chair of the Wild Land Committee. The big topic of discussion was Cancer and the Fire Service. It was brought to our attention there are some guidelines for cancer prevention in the Structure Fire arena. There seems there are not any guidelines for Wild Land Fire. With this being said. Chairman of the Wild Land committee Ron Roy from Washington and Vice Chair Steve McClintock from Nevada are teaming up with NFPA to set some guidelines for Cancer prevention in the Wild Land arena.

Special Presentations

The board participated in a facility tour at Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners in Charlotte, which included a presentation by a representative from the Firefighter

Cancer Support Network. Fire-fighter cancer awareness and prevention are a priority for the NVFC, and proper cleaning of gear is a critical component of this. The Council passed three resolutions regarding proper PPE storage and cleaning as well as establishing a Task Force to combat the cancer issue.

Additional presentations included Dr. Rebecca Gimenez and John Haven from Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue during the general session, William Deas of the DHS Infrastructure Security Compliance Division during the Hazmat Response Committee meeting, and Red Grasso of First Net during the Radio/Wireless Committee meeting. The North Carolina State Firemen's Association also hosted dinners at Hendrick Racing and the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Meeting Sponsors

The NVFC thanks our meeting host, the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, and its partners as well as all of the meeting sponsors: American Addiction Centers, California Casualty, ESIP, Minerva Bunker Gear Cleaners, the National Fire Protection Association, The Pennsylvania Fireman, Penn Well Fire Group, Provident, Scott Safety, and Shell Pipeline Company LP.

Learn More

Find more information about the NVFC fall meeting at www.nvfc.org. A post-meeting highlight video will also be available on the NVFC web site soon. The next board meeting will take place May 6-7, 2016, in Alexandria, VA.

BE THE VOLUNTEER THAT STEPS UP

Over the past 150 years there have been huge changes in the equipment used in the fire service. We have evolved from buckets to controlling water flow by computer. Our coats used to be rubber and now are materials that we caution are "too good" of a heat barrier. Departments are full Volunteer, Full Career, and combination.

We are learning new things every day. One of the most important new things learned is how our hoods can transfer cancer causing carcinogens into our skin for hours after beating down a fire. Your NSFA past President Steve McClintock ends his emails with "Fight Cancer Wash your Hood".

One thing that has not changed is the volunteer. Professional Volunteers make a career of volunteering. I and many of my fellow brother and sister firefight-

ers can say the same. I am going on 29 years volunteering as a firefighter / EMT. I still flip burgers for a community event and get out of bed at 2 AM to respond to a neighbor in need.

73% of fire departments across America are staffed by volunteer firefighter / EMS. Training commitments, Fire service regulations, family demands, work demands, have all made it more difficult for volunteers to be volunteers.

There is a book called "Street Smart Firefighting" Written by Robert C. Bingham. I enjoyed reading it and passing it on. It spells it out. Everybody wants everything and many firefighters, chief officers, or managers talk allot. The good thing is most volunteers are your community minded hard working family folks who volunteer to help their neighbors. Not everyone can be a volunteer and all in the community are grateful for those who are volunteers.

Many of our career brothers and sisters were volunteers before career. Many career firefighters attend fire academies and EMT basic training then are hired on as career and then become paramedics. Achieving paramedic certification is almost a career in itself. I admire the paramedics I work with.

Going back in time to when I first became a Nationally Regis-

tered EMT we were EMTB-D. The B was basic and the D was manual defibrillation. We were certified to intubate using a combi-tube, curved laryngoscope and Magill forceps. It was not uncommon for volunteers to progress to EMT-I where we certified in IV. All this was done while working full time and raising families. Being a volunteer is a family commitment!

Organizations like the NSFA (www.nsfa.com), NVFC, and NFCA are trying very hard to help to support volunteers. NSFA and NFCA work to support Nevada firefighters. NVFC support volunteer firefighters nationally. Steve McClintock, your NSFA past president is a seated director with the NVFC. If you need to know more about any of these organizations email at adrake@nsfa.org or adrake@storeycounty.org

Volunteering requires commitment from you and your family. The more you do the more someone will want. Volunteers are learning how to say NO! Is this a good thing? In a way it is sad we even need to talk about it but many of the changes are good and do require more of us. Many of the changes over the last 150 years have saved lives.

Go out today and recruit a volunteer, explain to them the personal as well as their family commitment. Tell them they will need to know when to say NO!

Explain to them they will be training hard. Tell them they will be answering to chief officers. Tell them many have the opinion there is no greater calling than to step up to save a life. If you have done your part you already have either become a chief officer or you have helped a chief officer be the leader a volunteer will trust and be proud to follow.

Firefighting is dangerous and physically demanding. It is a family commitment. Many will try to push you and other volunteers in directions that will cause a personal life imbalance. This is when you need to help be the leader to help a volunteer to say NO! If your department has strong leadership you will never have to say NO! You and your brother and sister volunteers or career will train shoulder to shoulder - fight fires shoulder to shoulder - save a life shoulder to shoulder - and be there for each other when the call you were on was almost more than you could bear. We are professional volunteers. This is what we do! This has not changed over the last 150 years and will not as long as there are professional volunteer Firefighter / EMS.

Al Drake

Volunteer Fire Chief /EMT

NSFA 4th year director

RESCUE TASK FORCE

Hello my friends!

Just a quick note to tell you all about some pretty exciting new training that NAS Fallon firefighters are going through. RTF (Rescue Task Force) is new cutting edge stuff that really smashes the mold for law enforcement and fire/ems groups in responding to a very specific emergency. When we hear the words "ACTIVE SHOOTER" we immediately think of Columbine, but the truth is that there has been over a hundred incidents of "ACTIVE SHOOTERS" since Columbine. As the number of incidents rise along with the threat of foreign and domestic terrorism, we can no longer stand fast and wait for a Special Weapons and Tactical Team to respond and end the threat for us. When an "ACTIVE SHOOTER" occurs, patrol officers and fire/ems will most likely be the first responders on the scene and possible the only line of defense between the victims and the threat. Immediate action must be taken to neutralize the threat and prevent the further loss of life to innocent people. We are first responders and we must act. Make no mistake about it, in an "ACTIVE SHOOTER" encounter you will be in harm's way. The concepts that we will learn and practice in this

training will allow us to respond with the ability and confidence to end an "ACTIVE SHOOTER" situation while increasing everyone's survivability rate. Right now NAS Fallon has several members at the Train the Trainer level for RTF we are looking forward to passing along this training to the rest of our department and our outlying community. I will keep you informed on our progress.

Be safe out there!!!

- Richard McKnight

NSFA BENEFITS

The NSFA has tried to give you products that are cost effective, provide a true value to you and your family and will return your money and is something that you can keep long after you retire. Lifetime benefits with a return of your money in many cases. All of these benefits cover you on and off the job. So whether you are fighting a fire or surfing on the beach in Costa Rica, or working your regular job.... you are covered. Below is a brief explanation of each benefit.

5Star Life Insurance - Ok guys here is an opportunity for you to have a life insurance that is being offered to the NSFA. The first \$10,000 there is only one question, Do you have HIV/

AIDS? If you can say NO then you qualify for this insurance. This product is 100% portable, that means that no matter where you move to it goes with you. It is locked in and will not increase due to age, if you move or quit the NSFA. It is yours to keep. It goes with you and will not have a rate increase. It is good to age 100. So even if you have had a heart attach last year, or diabetes, or cancer you still qualify for the \$10,000 because you are a member of the NSFA. You can also apply for more coverage, there is only one rate, there is not smoking or non-smoking rates, no male or female rates. Just a good simple policy that is good till age 100 regardless of where you move.



Family Heritage - Accident Insurance- Critical Illness- or Cardio/Heart Attack Insurance- These products are 100% portable, that means that no matter where you move to it goes with you. Remember being a Fire-fighter there is always a chance of an accident on or off the job. These products will refund all you money you have paid every 20 years if you never use it. It is

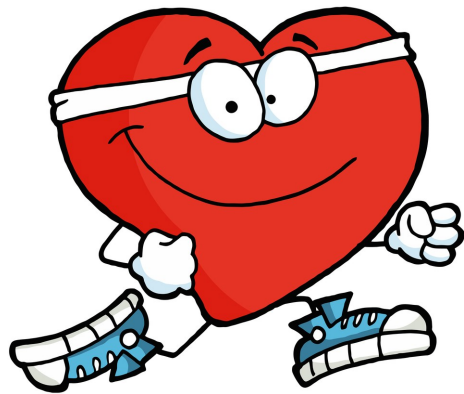
a mini-retirement plan. You can never be cancelled and your rates cannot be raised. There is no cap on how much they will pay you. They only pay you, not the doctors, hospitals, social security, medicare or attorneys only you. If you have a high deductible or no insurance this can give you the money to pay those deductibles and save some money. Also a special program for the NSFA for every policy sold they will donate \$15 to the NSFA.



Washington National-Hospitalization Policy -This policy is offered to you which is also portable. The purpose of this policy is to help eliminate your deductible and copays and in many cases provide additional money which you can use as you see fit. If you go into the hospital or need medical attention this policy is there to help fill in the gaps that you current medical policy has.



Healthiest You - This product is designed for you to be able to speak to a doctor at 2 am in the morning from your house. So when your kid has a temperature and you can't miss work or drive into town you can call a doctor and speak with them. Healthiest You will make a diagnosis and proscribe a medicine. They will even search the local pharmacies to see which is cheaper and open and call it in for you. If you need a medical treatment they will help locate a doctor that will perform it at the most reasonable cost.



Safe ID Trust - This is the newest product to be added.....Your identity will be stolen in the next 5 years or less. Let Safe ID Trust help you protect your identity and recover your lost identity. We have a special price for the NSFA.....\$144.00 that is more than 50% of the retail price of \$300. This price protects you and everyone in your family. \$10 of your membership will be donated back to the NSFA. Your piece of mind and protection for less than \$12 a month or less

then 3 cups of coffee at those fancy places.

We are excited to announce that we are in the final stages of having an exclusive to NSFA: Firefighters Prepaid MasterCard!!! (More to come very soon!!!!!!!)

If you have questions please call and speak with:

Matthew Risher
702-572-9500
mattrisher@gmail.com

Or

Jed Miner
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jedminer@gmail.com

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your best source for discounts.

With over **4,000 participating Merchants and Services**, and discounts on average of **40% to 60%**, we want our members to take advantage of these great savings and make every dollar count. Make sure to click on the link below and register, then start enjoying the benefits.

Your participation helps the NSFA. Your donation of **\$10** will go to helping the NSFA pay for equipment, testing or other things that benefit you, the members.

WHAT IT DOES!

Great Discounts – Use our website to source thousands of discounted services – for home or office.

Shop with Confidence – Listed vendors are dedicated to helping their community and saving you money.

Your Daily Destination – Find gift ideas, vacation, travel, auto, home services even legal and financial planning help.

Register Today – In a nutshell? Get Great Deals! Quickly source 1000's of suppliers and vendors from one source!

iPerks Plus connects you to vacation destinations, sporting events, movie tickets, air travel, hotels and more...

All at Discounted Prices through our membership based savings

program.

NVFC SURVEY

Dear NVFC Board,

The NFPA is collecting responses for the fourth U.S. Fire Service Needs Assessment Survey until mid-January. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that enough volunteer and small combination departments in each state participate in the survey so that we have good data and information about their needs. The survey can be [completed online](#) or you can [download it](#), print it off and mail it in. The survey is designed to be quick and easy to fill out (if you have any issues with it please let me know).

As [this map](#) shows, the survey response rate in most states is currently below 10%. The NFPA tells us that they don't get a good response rate from volunteer fire departments, which means that the data for VFDs isn't as reliable. Even an additional 10-20 responses from small fire departments in each state could make a huge difference in the quality of the state- and national-level data that the NVFC and policy-makers rely on to make decisions about legislation, grants and codes and standards (among other things).

The NVFC helped write this survey. We were able to get several questions about use of limited-duty and auxiliary personnel included to try to get a more complete sense of staffing and readiness levels in the volunteer fire service. We're

hoping to use the survey results to help us evaluate the success of our SAFER R&R grant. This is an absolutely critical document and it is only updated every 4-5 years.

Please take the survey for your department and share this message with your state contacts.

- Dave Finger





Nevada State
Firefighter's Association

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BY: TRAVIS FLESHER



SUMMER 2015
ARTICLES WELCOME

WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE PUMPER!

Would you like to write an article for a future Pumper? You can contact **Mark Flesher** at

MFlesher@nsfa.org

Please include in the E-Mail, your name and the title of your article. Please Send the article in a format fitted for The Pumper.

If any additional information is needed we will contact you through your E-Mail or phone.

OR you can submit the pumper to <http://nsfa.org/pumper/>

Just fill out the form and it will be sent automatically to the editor!

Come visit us at:
<http://www.nsfa.org/>