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## President's Message

First, as members of the AAFC let me say thank you for charging me to lead this organization for the next year or so. It is truly an honor to have your trust as we work together to improve our field. As you read through what is the first AAFC newsletter in recent history, I hope this becomes a platform for us to exchange information and for you to share your experiences and ideas that can be a part of bettering our membership and organization.



It's been a busy several weeks since our Joint Summer Conference. That conference was a huge success and that credit goes directly to our members who made up almost 75% of all attendees. In addition to the great educational and networking experiences we all had, the AAFC showed a profit of nearly \$29,000. A huge thanks to Chief Jordan and all of Montgomery Fire, along with AAFC members Gene Coleman, Chris Etheredge and Director Harlon Hutcheson, for all the hard work that made this possible.

AAFC members attended the AAVFD conference in Florence on July 13 & 14 and the 3rd Alabama Fire safety Summit July 20th. This kind of work must continue if we are going to maximize our impact. At the same time, we are expanding our focus to include other issues that we are all facing. Many of these issues will require partnerships with other organizations and associations to meet the end goals and I look forward to working with the State Fire Marshal, Alabama Fire College, and others to accomplish these goals. We are certainly stronger together than separately and can truly make a difference working in unison.

In closing, thank you again for your trust as AAFC President. We all face decisions everyday. Sometimes the answer is clear and simple and sometimes the "right" thing is not as obvious. Better than all the other things AAFC offers members is the ability to reach out to a colleague who has been there and done that. Your fellow members are an excellent sounding board and experienced group. Take the opportunity to add as many numbers to your contact list as you can, and don't hesitate to use it.

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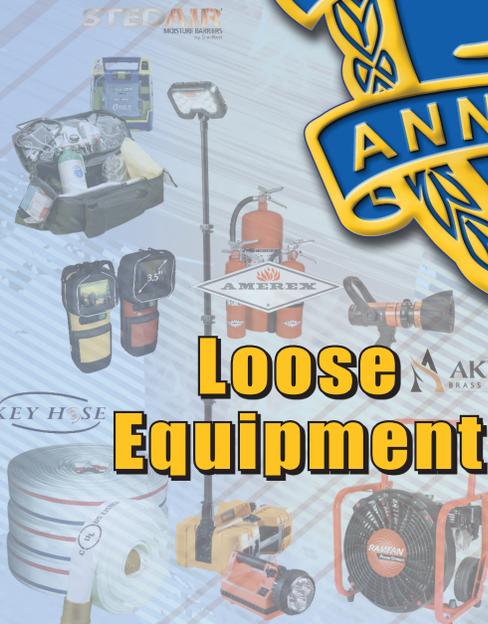
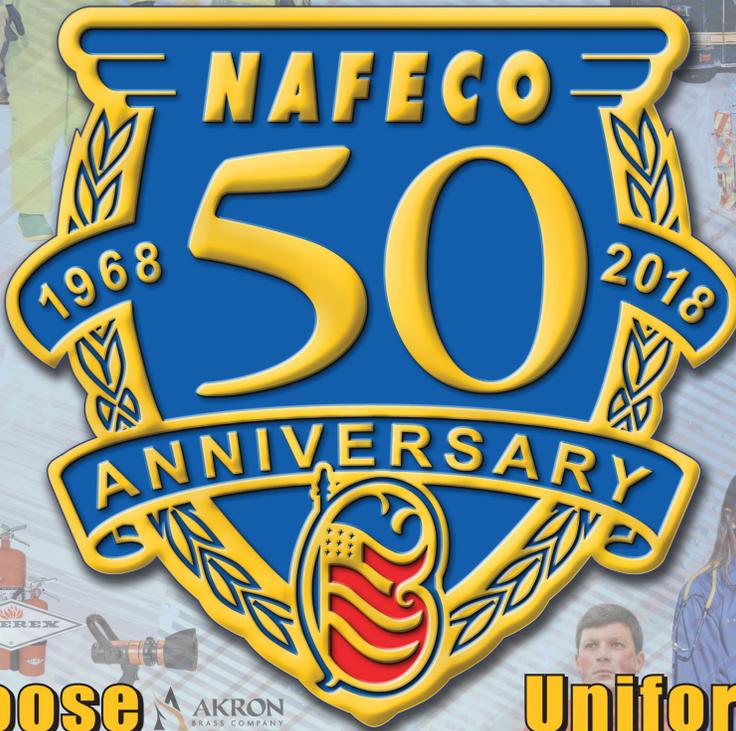


# NAFECO

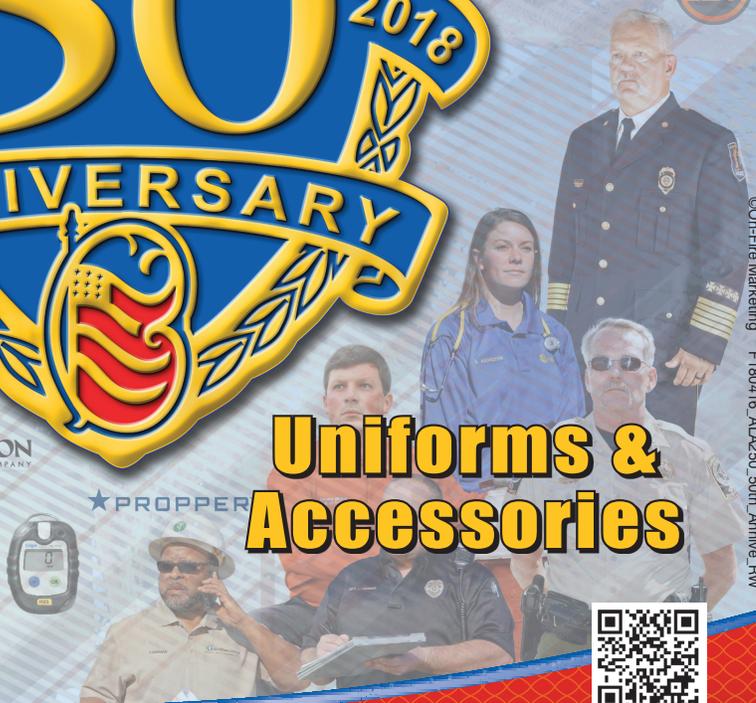


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## AAFC Regional Association Information

### CAFCA

Central Alabama Fire Chiefs Association meets the second Wednesday of each month at locations throughout Central Alabama. Contact Chief Gary Sparks for more information, [gary.sparks@oxfordal.gov](mailto:gary.sparks@oxfordal.gov)

### NAFCA

North Alabama Fire Chiefs Association meets the second Thursday of every month at locations across North Alabama. Contact Chief Tony Grande for more information, [tgrande@decatur-al.gov](mailto:tgrande@decatur-al.gov)

### SEAFCA

Southeast Alabama Fire Chiefs Association meets bimonthly (even-numbered months) on the third Thursday at locations around Southeast Alabama. Contact Deputy Chief Michael Whaley for more information, [michael.whaley@prattvilleal.gov](mailto:michael.whaley@prattvilleal.gov)

### SWAAFC

Southwestern Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs meets bimonthly (odd-numbered months) at locations throughout the Southwestern region. Contact Chief Joey Darby for more information, [jdarby@cityoffoley.org](mailto:jdarby@cityoffoley.org)

## 2017 SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS VOLUNTEER AND COMBINATION FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR

AAFC MEMBER CHIEF SPRUCE MCREE  
BRIERFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief McRee is the Fire Chief of Brierfield VFD and has over 45 years of fire service experience. He is a currently President of the Shelby Co. 1st Battalion group, a Command staff member of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation, and on the board for the National Center for Fire and Life Safety. Congrats Chief McRee!





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# The Lavender Ribbon Report on Cancer Prevention

now available under the resources tab on the AAFC website

## BEST PRACTICES

# for Preventing FIREFIGHTER CANCER

- 1** Full protective equipment (PPE) must be worn throughout the entire incident, including SCBA during salvage and overhaul.
- 2** A second hood should be provided to all entry-certified personnel in the department.
- 3** Following exit from the IDLH, and while still on air, you should begin immediate gross decon of PPE using soap water and a brush, if weather conditions allow. PPE should then be placed into a sealed plastic bag and placed in an exterior compartment of the rig, or if responding in POVs, placed in a large storage tote, thus keeping the off-gassing PPE away from passengers and self.
- 4** After completion of gross decon procedures as discussed above, and while still on scene, the exposed areas of the body (neck, face, arms and hands) should be wiped off immediately using wipes, which must be carried on all apparatus. Use the wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately.
- 5** Change your clothes and wash them after exposure to products of combustion or other contaminants. Do this as soon as possible and/or isolate in a trash bag until washing is available.
- 6** Shower as soon as possible after being exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants. "Shower within the Hour"
- 7** PPE, especially turnout pants, must be prohibited in areas outside the apparatus floor (i.e. kitchen, sleeping areas, etc.) and never in the household.
- 8** Wipes, or soap and water, should also be used to decontaminate and clean apparatus seats, SCBA and interior crew area regularly, especially after incidents where personnel were exposed to products of combustion.
- 9** Get an annual physical, as early detection is the key to survival. The NVFC outlines several options at [www.nvfc.org](http://www.nvfc.org). "A Healthcare Provider's Guide to Firefighter Physicals" can be downloaded from [www.iafc.org/healthRoadmap](http://www.iafc.org/healthRoadmap).
- 10** Tobacco products of any variety, including dip and e-cigarettes should never be used at anytime on or off duty.
- 11** Fully document ALL fire or chemical exposures on incident reports and personal exposure reports.

FUNDING PROVIDED BY





# ROYAL RESTORATION

# NFPA appoints new Southeastern Regional Director

With the retirement of long-time regional Director Randy Safer, I was fortunate enough to be selected to assume his role for the region which includes Alabama. And thanks to the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs, I get the opportunity to introduce myself here to the membership.

My career started as a volunteer EMT and EMS provider in my hometown of Richmond, Virginia while I was in high school. And thanks to a great group of firefighters who also volunteered there, I discovered what would become a rewarding 34 year career in the fire service with the Chesterfield County (VA) Fire and EMS Department. A career that allowed me to ride the tailboard of an R-Model Mack engine, be part of a select group of paramedics to serve with the first Virginia State Police Med-Flight Program, serve as a company officer in one of the busiest engine companies in our county, become a Hazardous Materials Team member, and ultimately leave that department in early 2018 as an Assistant Fire Chief.



**Robby Dawson**

**NFPA,  
Southeastern  
Regional Director**

My passion for fire prevention and experience with codes and standards began when I was assigned to the Fire Marshals Office as an inspector/investigator. I was ultimately promoted to Battalion Chief and appointed as the Fire Code Official where I managed staff who were responsible for fire prevention education, code enforcement – including the fire prevention code and fire protection systems in new construction, and fire and explosion investigations. During a reorganization of the department's structure, I was promoted to Assistant Chief and remained the Fire Code Official as well as assumed responsibility for the day to day management of our Emergency Management Office as well as the function of public information and media relations. It was during this reorganization that our department took a different look at fire prevention and embraced the concept of Community Risk Reduction and expanded our risk assessments, public education, and community outreach efforts.

“It’s a big world, let’s protect it together” is a motto NFPA has adopted in the recent past. We see it on correspondence, our business cards, and other NFPA materials. As a local fire officer and fire marshal, I was better equipped to do my job when I had the resources afforded to me as a member of NFPA. Now as a Regional Director I see how critical our relationships are with our stakeholders – the fire service in particular – in our ability to accomplish our mission. I am keenly aware that our success will only come partners like the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs and the local fire service members.

If I can help support you or your departments in their mission, I would welcome the opportunity to do so. In the meantime, if there are any events happening in your area that I can help support or participate in, please let me know. I look forward to meeting and working with many more of you in the near future.

Robby Dawson  
SE Regional Director, NFPA  
[rdawson@nfpa.org](mailto:rdawson@nfpa.org)  
804-401-9063



Alabama Career Fire Chief of the Year Jon Lord being recognized at the SEAFCA/AAFC Summer Conference. Pictured with Chief Lord are Ronald Woodall of NAFECO and AAFC President Gene Necklaus. Congrats to Chief Lord!



Montgomery Fire Chief Miford Jordan and Chief of Staff John Petrey with representatives of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, who provided some entertainment before the SEAFCA Presidential Dinner in Montgomery. Huge thanks to PCI for your continued support!

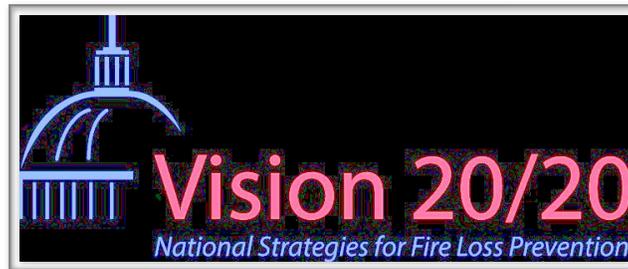
## COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Your newly appointed membership committee met this month to look at how to better promote our Association and encourage new Chief Officers to join. We had a great discussion with a lot of great ideas and initiatives to roll out as well as some recommendations that will be made to the Executive Board. One item that YOU can help with is simply promoting the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs. Our membership numbers, specifically in the volunteer departments, continue to decrease. The committee identified two areas of concern: 1) we often are not aware of a change in Volunteer Chief Officers and 2) we don't effectively promote the benefits of membership. Your committee is committed to visiting with County Volunteer Fire Associations to simply discuss the Association, the benefits and educational opportunities. We encourage you to do the same in your home County, or Regional Association (CAFCA, SEAFCA, NAFCA, etc.) when you have an opportunity.

The Committee is considering making a recommendation to the Executive Board regarding membership discounts for County Associations, much like we currently have for multiple Chief Officers from the same career department. Additionally, we would like to explore the possibility of providing one or more scholarships to the Mid-Winter Conference for a Volunteer Fire Chief. Lastly, the Committee recommends a New Member "Meet and Greet" at the Mid-Winter. We feel this will provide an excellent networking opportunity for new members and new Chief Officers.

We are excited about the opportunity to grow our Association. We will be meeting monthly to discuss opportunities to enhance our Association. If you have any recommendations or would like to assist in this recruitment effort, please reach out to any member of the Committee.

-Membership Committee (Ben Stewart, Chris Etheredge, Brandy Williams, and Larry Seals)



So, what is Vision 20/20? Has your public education/community risk reduction effort needed a boost, or some direction?

Visit <https://strategicfire.org> for a great selection of free helps and an easy to use materials generator to create documents tailored to your department or organization. A great example of what is available is a video for Home Fire Safety inspections in multiple languages including Mandarin and American Sign Language.

CRRNet is an online forum for exchanging ideas, tips, suggestions and for asking questions between those involved in the front-line delivery of Community Risk Reduction. With CRR expanding across the nation, people are looking for ideas and want to avoid reinventing the wheel when it comes to integrating emergency operations and other risk reduction strategies. CRRNet is here to help.

Dalan Gassett represented the State Fire Marshals office along with me representing the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs. I'd highly recommend finding the funds to send your CRR advocate to see what is working on other jurisdictions around North America.

Chief Anthony Grande  
Decatur Fire and Rescue  
AAFC 2nd Vice President

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## UPCOMING 2018 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS PROGRAM

The **AFG for Operations and Safety** Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is expected to be released near the end of September, with the application period opening a couple of weeks afterwards. Look for a few changes to the Priorities and Guidance documents. Some of the expected changes are:

- The cost limit on Micro Grants is increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000 (federal share)
- Equipment that meets minimum operational and deployment standards are a high priority
- Replacing non-compliant equipment with equipment that meets a current standard is a high priority
- Upgrades of technology to current standards is a priority
- Quints are added to the priority list for vehicle grants
- Direct-source capture diesel exhaust systems, safety systems (fire sprinklers, alarms systems) are a top priority for Modifications to Facilities grants
- Replacing unrepairable or non-compliant PPE is a high priority
- Providing each member with a complete set of PPE or an SCBA for all seated positions or members (whichever is less) is a high priority
- Training that leads to certification remains a top priority

### **SAFER Grants**

SAFER applications are expected to open either December or January with \$350 million in funding.

- FEMA expects approximately 300 awards for the hiring of firefighters
- Hiring applications that bring a department to NFPA 1710/1720 standards will be the most likely to be awarded
- Hiring under 2018 SAFER will continue to have a 3 year period-of-performance, with the funding match being 75%, 75%, and 35%
- No lay-offs are permitted of new or existing personnel during the PoP
- SAFER hiring applications should indicate prior approval of the governing authority
- The cost to train and equip new firefighters is not eligible under SAFER, nor are the salaries or benefits of a person who had full-time status at the time of award

### **Recruitment and Retention (R&R)**

Departments that have the lowest recruitment/retention rates are given a higher consideration. The highest priority will be given to assist departments with a high turnover rate and levels significantly below NFPA 1710/1720.

#### High Priorities Examples-

- Recruitment and Retention Coordinator
- Marketing Program

#### Medium Priority Examples-

- Stipends
- Length of Service Awards program

#### Low Priority Examples-

- Station duty uniforms
- Awards Programs



Dear AAFC Members,

I hope this letter finds you all very happy and healthy. Everything is going extremely well at your Alabama Fire College. As such I would like to provide a brief overview of happenings here.

The Alabama Fire College staff is continually monitoring trends from one year to the next in order to gauge our progress and performance. Below is a summary of the *Student Services Report* that is generated to track the number of students who have attended Alabama Fire College courses, the number of courses taught, the location of the various courses, and the number of certifications issued during 2017 and 2018.

The chart below indicates that while we delivered virtually the same number of courses both years, those students have received a larger number of certifications this year even though the year is not yet complete. While we do take pride in the amount of activity generated, we take greater pride when our students are successful in their quest for certification. The success of our programs are largely attributable to the hard work of our partner Regional and Extension Training Centers, our students taking the time out of their already busy schedules to attend courses, the ten Regional Coordinators who facilitate these efforts, and the Alabama Fire College staff who work diligently behind the scenes to ensure every student has a positive experience. *(continued on page 15)*

**ALABAMA FIRE COLLEGE UPDATE**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MATT RUSSELL**

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## From the Desk of Alabama State Fire Marshal Scott F. Pilgreen

It's Labor Day the unofficial end of summer which means fall and winter are just around the corner. That said we're still feeling the heat and humidity of the Dog Days of summer but many reading this article are already making plans to cope with the cooler/colder weather that is approaching. My purpose for this article is to provide a reminder of a few things we all can do at our homes, hunting cabins and workplaces, etc. in order to protect against the possibility of a fire.

First, if you or someone you know are using space heaters as primary or auxiliary heating source make sure these appliances are used properly. Keep them safe distances from any combustible material such as drapes, bed clothing, furniture, etc. When using a kerosene or \*\*LP/ Natural gas fueled unit make sure that it has proper ventilation and that the proper fuel is used. If the appliance requires venting to the outside make sure that the vent is clear of obstructions.

Second, when using \*\*fireplaces or wood heaters these should be inspected annually to ensure that the flues and chimneys are free of obstructions and clear of creosote buildup with no cracks are spaces present which could allow embers to escape and cause a fire.

*\*\*Note: Improper venting can lead to a buildup of carbon monoxide which can have deadly consequences.*

Third, be mindful when using items that have open flames such as candles, smoking materials, i.e. cigarettes, cigars, etc. and outdoor burning. Do not leave candles unattended or place them close to combustible materials, when smoking please discard these items in a safe manner and never smoke while using oxygen, and when conducting any type of outdoor burning do not use gasoline or other highly flammable products, be alert to weather conditions such as wind and never leave these fires unattended.

In closing I want to encourage everyone to develop and practice an escape plan from your home primarily but extend this to wherever you might be. A plan that is well practiced and has become second nature to everyone in the family is critical. Should an emergency occur and we find ourselves unprepared the time to develop and practice a plan has passed.

I firmly believe that if we as individuals develop safe habits and behaviors and encourage those in our circles of influence to do the same then collectively all of us can reduce the occurrence of fires as well as the injuries and deaths that are too often associated with them.

*Scott F. Pilgreen*





Landry Merkison  
CSU Graduate

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(AFC Update continued from page 12)

**Student Services Report**

	Courses	Students	Campus	RTC	Field	Certifications
2017	241	27,500	3,020	1,341	23,139	7,271
2018	240	24,862	2,670	1,474	20,718	7,384

As you can see in the *Student Services Report* there is a significant amount of training that is occurring in the field as well as at RTC's/ETC's. Earlier this year while evaluating our operational effectiveness, data was collected regarding the amount of training that had occurred at RTC's/ETC's during the past three years. It was determined that if those same students had attended training at the Alabama Fire College campus in Tuscaloosa it would have cost the students and/or their departments approximately \$1.2 million in per diem alone. Or said another way, these students received training in their local areas because the RTC's/ETC's were in place, which saved the students/their departments a tremendous amount of money.

Thanks to the efforts of Section Chief David Thornburg and Adjunct Instructor Rod Glover, Hoover Police Department (retired), for launching an eight-hour pilot *Active Shooter and Hostile Event (ASHER)* course on August 22. Full implementation and delivery are set to begin prior to the end of this year. Please monitor our website for details.

There are numerous Career Tech high school firefighter programs in place throughout the state. These programs allow students to complete their Volunteer 160 training while still in high school and sit for the Certified Volunteer Firefighter certification upon graduation from the program. There were several Career Tech high school graduates who, in May, applied for and were granted \$900 scholarships to attend firefighter Bridge Programs. Many have taken full advantage of this opportunity and are currently training to become career firefighters. Much thanks is due to the generous donation from the Daniel Foundation which allowed these energetic and enthusiastic young men the opportunity to fulfil their lifelong dreams of becoming firefighters.

Beginning October 1, 2018 there will be a 10% increase in tuition. This increase was approved as a two-step process which began in October, 2017. This will increase the tuition for most courses by about \$30. For specific course costs for the 2018-2019 fiscal year go to: <http://www.alabamafirecollege.org/docs/default-source/docs/tuition-table-2018.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

I am hopeful that the Alabama Fire College staff is responsive to your needs and that you are satisfied with the services we provide. I assure you that we strive diligently to fulfil our obligation to you and appreciate every emergency responder who allows us the opportunity to serve them. Our goal is to always attempt to make your interaction with the Alabama Fire College as positive an experience as possible. If any of you has suggestions or recommendations about how we can improve our programs please contact us. If I, or anyone at the Alabama Fire College, may be of service please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very Respectfully,

Matt Russell

Have an idea for an upcoming newsletter?

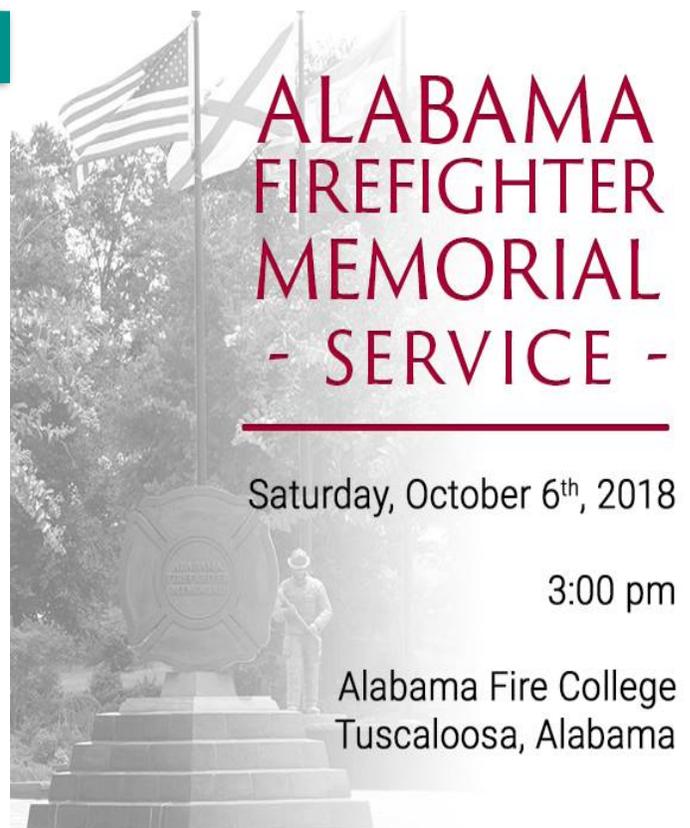
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## SAVE THE DATE

- Firefighter Memorial Service  
AFC Campus, October 6, 2018
- Fire College Weekend  
AFC, October 3-7, 2018
- Fire Chiefs Executive Development  
Conference  
Bryant Conf. Center, Feb 5-8, 2019

A graphic for the Alabama Firefighter Memorial Service. It features a background image of a fire station with an American flag and a fire hydrant. Overlaid on the image is the text "ALABAMA FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL - SERVICE -" in a large, dark red, serif font. Below this, the date "Saturday, October 6th, 2018" and the time "3:00 pm" are listed. At the bottom, the location "Alabama Fire College Tuscaloosa, Alabama" is provided.

**ALABAMA  
FIREFIGHTER  
MEMORIAL  
- SERVICE -**

Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

3:00 pm

Alabama Fire College  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

*Turn Your Attention To Fire Prevention!*