



The Bulletin

Official Publication of the Allegany Garrett Counties
Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association

Volume X Issue 10

Barbara A. Knippenburg, Editor

December 2015

Mt. Savage Hosts Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire And Rescue Association

The meeting of the Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association met Sunday, December 13, 2015 at Mt. Savage.

The Association was welcomed by Chad Robinson. Twenty one companies and twelve Past Presidents were present. Guests included: Rick Blair, Washington County.

President Dick DeVore gave a Challenge to everyone to go back to their home company and help someone less fortunate during this holiday season.

Information Sharing

~**Garrett County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association**—Mike Simmons reported that the cost to repair the Air Truck is \$3,000.

~**MIEMMS Region I 6**
Dwayne Kitis: Region I office successfully moved to its new location in Frostburg this past week.

16 S. Broadway, Suite D
P.O. Box 113
Frostburg, MD 21532
There is parking right across the street, and at the public safety building where the city police are located, about 1/2 block down.
Phone numbers will stay the same, we may get a new fax number and will relay that when we know for sure.

50/50 matching grants went to the 4 companies in Allegany county for life pack 15's no formal paperwork has been sent yet.

Miltenberger brochure

should be out right before or right after Christmas. Daytime March 11th will be at WMRTC and MFRI building, Evening of the 11th and all day the 12th will be at Rocky gap casino . Space is very limited and classes will fill up fast, register early, and if you want a hotel room book it early as well they will be fully booked since it is a weekend!

Allegany County EMS—John Hearth: Fail Rate for county 5.35%. Five companies in double digits. Emergency Services will allow John to have one “silo” for EMEDS, so providers can do EMEDS on other company databases. ALS Refresher scheduled for January 10, 11, 21, 22, 2016. CARES: program for Cardiac Arrest January 1, 2016. John working on Life-Pak 15

AFG Regional Grant. 700 mhz radio system starting. Fellowship of Christian Firefighters: Eight members of the A Mike Walters Chapter traveled to PG County in November. Met December 5th at Orleans with 14 present. New Officers were elected. Next meeting will be January 9, 2016 at Potomac, Company 22.
~**Chaplaincy:** Still need names and contact information for Company Chaplains.

Vice President Roger Long has some open meeting dates for next year. Please contact him if your company is willing to host a meeting of Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.

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Upcoming Meetings:

- **Maryland State Firemen's Association Executive Committee— February 5th & 6th at Hollywood**
- **A. Mike Walters Prayer Breakfast—January 9th, at Potomac**
- **AGCVFRA - January 10th, 1400 hrs, hosted by Ellerslie Ambulance**
- **Garrett County Fire Rescue Association—January 27, 2016—1900 hrs.—Deep Creek VFD**

Meeting Date Change

Due to a conflict with MSFA Executive Meeting, the February meeting date for AGCVFRA will be moved to the second Sunday—February 14th at 1400 hours



Committees...

Fire Prevention:

Pat Bowser Scholarship Fund Committee— Scholarship Committee will meet after the first of the new year. Donations received for the Scholarship Fund included: \$500, \$500, \$300, \$100, and \$50. The challenge is still in effect to all companies.

Legislation: With a desire to

have a good working relationship with our legislators, we plan to meet with them at the Allegany County Office Building on December 17th following their meeting with the Allegany County Commissioners. We welcome suggestions for future legislation to assist and promote the emergency service in Western Maryland.

Convention Committee— Tim Dayton: Meetings with the Association will begin in January.

Ways and Means— Dave Kyle. The next drawing date will be at the February meeting.

Thanks to Jenny Knox for her help in taking notes at the meeting.

MFRI in Cooperation with MIEMSS Announces National Registry Test Preparation Class Dates.

The Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute in cooperation with Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services System will be offering a National Registry Test Preparation class for those students who successfully completed a MFRI EMT class between July 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015 using the 12th edition of the Brady text.

MIEMSS NREMT Test Preparation Courses

Two MIEMSS NREMT Test Preparation Courses will run in Western Maryland next semester. The following information will assist in pre-registering for this course:

COURSE 1:

This class will be posted on the MFRI web site this week - CD-106-S004-2016

Start – February 3, 2016; Wednesday nights 1800-2200

Location - WMRTC

Classes will be held on the following dates: 2/3; 2/10; 2/17; 2/24; 3/2; 3/9.

Students are encouraged to bring their computers and/or tablets to class.

This class is designed for members that completed an EMT course between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015 and have not successfully completed the NREMT Cognitive Examination. This includes members that failed the test or have

not taken the test.

The program includes homework between each class session.

Send in MFRI Western Maryland Region pre-registrations the same as any MFRI class in the region.

Close out date will be January 29, 2016.

Please contact the office if you have any questions. 301-729-0431

COURSE 2:

This class will be posted on the MFRI web site this week - CD-106-S005-2016

Start – January 9, 2016; Saturdays 0900-1300

Location – Hagerstown Community College

Classes will be held on the

following dates: 1/9; 1/16; 1/23; 1/30; 2/6; 2/13.

Students are encouraged to bring their computers and/or tablets to class.

This class is designed for members that completed an EMT course between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015 and have not successfully completed the NREMT Cognitive Examination. This includes members that failed the test or have not taken the test.

The program includes homework between each class session.

Send in MFRI Western Maryland Region pre-registrations the same as any MFRI class in the region.

Close out date will be January 4, 2016.

Please contact the Regional office if you have any questions. 301-729-0431

This class is designed for MFRI students who either failed the national registry test or have yet to take the test. The class will serve as a refresher for those students as well as provide information on National Registry testing. It is 24 hours in length and will be conducted one day a week over a 6 week period. All students having access to laptops, tablets or smart devices are encouraged to bring them to class.

Each region of the state will be offering one of these classes following the schedule listed below:
 Western Maryland ♦ Starting January 9th at the Hagerstown Community College and starting February 3rd at the regional training center
 North Central ♦ Starting January 24th at Frederick County Public Safety Training Center
 North East ♦ Starting January 20th at the regional training center
 Upper Eastern Shore ♦ Starting February 4th at the regional training center
 Lower Eastern Shore ♦ Starting January 13th at the regional training center
 Southern Maryland ♦ Starting January 2nd at MFRI Headquarters, College Park

Additional classes will be added as needed to meet demand. Contact your region to register as you do for all other classes in the region.



Maryland State Firemen's Association

Executive Committee Meeting—December 5—6, 2015—Berlin, MD

NVFC

With the support of a SAFER grant awarded to the NVFC, a nationwide volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention campaign is being initiated. Departments can participate by registering their needs through <http://portal.nvfc.org>.

This web portal allows departments to register their volunteer needs, develop customized recruitment materials, and access recruitment/retention resources. The general public can go to www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org and find local volunteer opportunities and learn more about the volunteer fire and emergency services. The NVFC will be launching a series of national me-

dia announcements of this web site to promote the volunteer fire service. **RECOMMENDATION:** Member departments of the MSFA should take full advantage of this program to help address their recruitment and retention needs.

Shell Pipeline provided an overview of free on-line training offered to firefighters and first responders on responding to pipeline incidents. This training is free and can be accessed at www.pipelines.training.

RECOMMENDATION: This free training opportunity should be disseminated to all personnel who have oil and gas pipelines transiting their response districts.

All-State Membership in the NVFC is increasing through

additional marketing and promotion. Becoming a member of the NVFC provides individual member benefits but also helps fund national level initiatives in support of the volunteer fire, emergency medical, and rescue services. Currently, twenty-two states are participating with nearly 20,000 individual members signed up.

RECOMMENDATION: Your NVFC representatives need your help in promoting the All-State Member program. Individual member dues are \$15 but MSFA has agreed to fund one-half of the annual membership fee. Please help promote this program throughout your represented districts.

Statistical Committee

As of Thanksgiving we have over 220 responses to the 2014 Statistical Report request. I would love to be able to report that we will have 100% by the January Legislative Session, but I really don't think that will happen. As we get ready to close the 2014 Report, I am asking for any change requests be made as soon as possible so they can be incorporated into the 2015 Statistical Report. I am also still looking for suggestions for any ways that would make it easier for the member companies to complete the reports, other than going back to paper.

Sprinkler

Our team monitors and addresses any concerns regarding sprinklers and will continue to do so. We would also like to ask that all of our partners to get involved. The time is now to get on board and write letters of support. Delegate Chris Adams has pre-filed a bill to allow counties to opt-out of the state mandate, so a strong, unified effort is needed now. Realizing that this is a legislative issue, everyone has agreed to work together as one, and pledged to communicate everything that is being done. We are committed to stave

off any effort to reduce this life saving legislation and will continue to fight on the front lines and educate where we can. **FAX YOUR LETTERS OF SUPPORT** do not email them **FAX THEM**

DNR

If your grant application was approved for funding; invoices or purchase orders and copies of checks used for payment must be dated between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Documentation to receive reimbursement must be submitted by January 15, 2016. Funds will either be direct deposited or a check

will be mailed to your department within 45 days of receiving the required documentation. Invoice and documentation may be submitted by email (preferred), fax or mail.

Don't forget to check the first mailing of the convention for 2016 & there is host of NEW training being offered.

Statewide recruitment day will be April 10th 2016 & more information at the February meeting on how to file

with the MSFA Committee to get reimbursement

Here is a link off of the **State Fire Marshal web site** & living with home sprinklers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wh1a0D0kUs>

EMS / MIEMSS

The new NREMT program is still a topic of contention across the state & this topic took up several hours of the weekend meeting

We still have 700+ students out there that have taking the training and failed or not tested & í ..

Thanks to Tim Dayton for the MSFA report.



Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute
University of Maryland
Western Maryland Regional Training Center

Report Date: December 10, 2015
Update for Allegany and Garrett Counties

Class	Log Number	Location	Start Date	Days	# of Students	Status	Class Closes
Firefighter I	-	WMRTC	8/8/15	T/Sa	25	Completed	-
EMT	-	Frostburg	9/3/15	M/Th/S a	34	Active	-
EMT	-	Garrett College	9/10/15	M/Th/S a	18	Active	-
Fire Officer II	-	WMRTC	10/10/15	Su	10	Completed	-
EMR Refresher	-	Grantsville	11/17/15	Tu	12	Active	-
EMT Refresher	-	WMRTC	11/14/15	Sa/Su	16	Completed	-
FD Safety Officer	-	Shaft	11/22/15	Su	19	Active	-
EMT Refresher	-	GC	12/5/15	Sa/Su	12	Active	-
EMT Skills	-	WMRTC	12/19/15	Sa/Su	(16)	Open/Active	-
*Haz Mat Awareness	<i>HM-103-S006-2016</i>	<i>Southern Rescue</i>	<i>1/7/16</i>	<i>Th</i>	<i>(0)</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>12/18/15</i>
*EMT	<i>EMS-106-S050-2016</i>	<i>WMRTC</i>	<i>1/19/16</i>	<i>Sa/T</i>	<i>(9)</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>12/28/15</i>
*Firefighter I	<i>FIRE-101-S051-2016</i>	<i>Garrett CCTC</i>	<i>2/2/16</i>	<i>T/Th</i>	<i>(1)</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>1/13/16</i>
*Firefighter I	<i>FIRE-101-S052-2016</i>	<i>WMRTC</i>	<i>2/6/16</i>	<i>Su/W</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>1/17/16</i>
*Firefighter II	<i>FIRE-201-S037-2016</i>	<i>Frostburg</i>	<i>2/6/16</i>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>1/17/16</i>
*EMR	<i>EMS-105-S013-2016</i>	<i>Southern Rescue</i>	<i>2/8/16</i>	<i>M/Th</i>	<i>(0)</i>	<i>Open</i>	<i>1/19/16</i>

Numbers in parentheses indicates total pre-registered students

*Red color, bold, and italicized font indicates additional enrollment needed for class to start

+ OOS represents students from out of state

Additional Information

Pre-register online at <http://www.mfri.org/cgi-bin/schedule.cgi?S=Online> for the following training opportunities:

EMT Refresher (12 hours) . January 1

Maryland Weekend at NFA . February 20/21. Register by January 10, 2016.

Spring Schedule is available online!

AFG Workshop will be held at WMRTC on Monday, December 14 at 1900 hours.

Preregistration is not required and walk-ins are welcome!



ATTN: Region I ALS Providers with 2016 expiration dates

As you are now aware, the Region I Medical Directors are requiring all ALS providers to have a skills evaluation done prior to their bi-annual recertification. This includes both CRTIs and Paramedics. Twenty-one skills have been chosen to be evaluated, including:

Airway (Perform)– Orotracheal, KING, Decompression

Airway (Verbal) –CPAP, ETCO₂, NG & OG tubes, Nasotracheal (paramedics only)

Access/med (Perform) – IO, IV, Medication Administration

Access/med (Oral) – Nebulizer, Intranasal, Sublingual, IM

Cardiac (Perform) – Defibrillation, Cardioversion, Pacing (all 3 in a mega-code scenario), Obtain 12-lead (including demonstration of lead placement, and interpretation)

Cardiac (Oral) – Vagal Maneuvers (can also be in the mega-code)

Other (Oral) – Physical and Chemical Restraints

Evaluation locations will be:

Garrett County: Garrett College Career Technology Training Center, Accident, MD.

Allegany County: Allegany County Department of Emergency Services, Cumberland, MD.

Miltenberger Seminar at Rocky Gap

Evaluation Dates

Garrett County	Allegany County
1/5/16 – 1830 hours	1/12/16 – 1830 hours
1/30/16 – 0900 hours	2/16/16 – 1830 hours
3/01/16 – 1830 hours	2/20/16 – 0900 hours
	3/09/16 – 1830 hours
3/11/16 – 1800 hours – Miltenberger Seminar	

*Region I providers can be evaluated in either county

* Some dates and times could be affected by the number of providers who sign up.

For those providers who want any extra practice using the equipment and manikins, we are offering non-mandatory practice nights. **Non-Mandatory practice sessions at the Garrett College Career Technology Training Center:** 12/15/15, 1/20/16 & 2/2/16 all at 1830 hours.

The Region realizes there are multiple providers who go through a similar skills process in another region. If you have already completed a skills evaluation in another region, you do not need to be evaluated in Region I; however the other jurisdiction must complete a Region I ALS Skill Verification form prior to your recertification. This will then be returned to the appropriate county EMS chief. Please contact Doug Beitzel to obtain a copy of this form.

To sign up for a practice or evaluation date, please contact Doug Beitzel at Garrett College. doug.beitzel@garrettcollege.edu or 301-387-3772.

ConEd hours will also be given for your evaluation. If you have any questions about the skills evaluation process, please contact: Dwayne Kitis MIEMSS Region I Administrator, Wayne Tiemersma, Garrett County EMS Chief, John Herath Allegany County EMS Chief or Doug Beitzel, Garrett College.

Sample skills sheets can also be requested by emailing: doug.beitzel@garrettcollege.edu



“Put a Freeze on Winter Fires”

December 2015 – The weather outside may be frightful this winter, but a fire in your home is far from delightful. Unfortunately, the risk of home fire does increase during the winter months: December, January, February and March are the leading months for U.S. home fires.

“The colder months and holiday season bring a set of fire risks that can quickly turn this festive, wintry time of year into a tragic one,” said Lorraine Carli, NFPA’s vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. “With a little added awareness and by following some basic safety precautions, people can greatly reduce the likelihood of winter home fires and ensure a warm, fire-safe season.”

Cooking

While cooking fires are the leading cause of U.S. home fires and injuries year-round, Christmas Day and Christmas Eve ranked second and third (after Thanksgiving) as the leading days for home cooking fires. On Christmas Day in 2013, there was a 58 percent increase in the number of home cooking fires than on a typical day, and a 54 percent increase on Christmas Eve. Between 2009 and 2013, cooking equipment was involved in annual average of 162,400 reported home fires that resulted in 430 civilian deaths, 5,400 injuries and \$1.1 billion in direct property damage per year. Unattended cooking was by far the leading cause of these fires and fire deaths.

Heating

Heating is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires, deaths and injuries; December, January and February are the peak months for heating fires. In 2009-2013, heating equipment was involved in an estimated average of 56,000 reported home fires per year, which caused 470 deaths, 1,490 injuries and \$1 billion in direct property damage. Home heating equipment was involved in 16 percent of home fires, 19 percent of the home fire deaths, 12 percent of the home fire injuries, and 15 percent of the direct property damage from home fires. Failure to clean chimneys and other heating equipment was the leading cause of these fires. However, space heaters, including portable heaters and those that are permanently installed, were involved in five out of six home heating fire deaths. Heating equipment was too close to things that can burn, such as upholstered furniture, clothing, mattresses or bedding, etc. in roughly half of the fire deaths.

Christmas Trees

Christmas tree fires are not common, but when they do occur, they’re much more likely to be deadly than most other fires. One of every 31 reported home Christmas tree fires results in a death each year, compared to an annual average of one death per 144 total reported home fires. Between 2009 and 2013, Christmas trees were involved in an annual average of 210 home fires resulting in seven civilian deaths, 19 injuries and \$17.5 million in direct property damage. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 38 percent of home Christmas tree fires.

Candles

December is the peak time of year for home candle fires; the top three days for home candle fires are New Year’s Day, Christmas, New Year’s Eve and Christmas Eve. In December, 11 percent of home candle fires began with decorations, compared to 4 percent the rest of the year. Each year between 2009 and 2013, an average of 25 home candle fires were reported each day. Overall, an estimated 9,300 home fires were caused by candles, resulting in 86 civilian deaths, 827 civilian injuries and \$374 billion in direct property damage.

Holiday decorations

Between 2009 and 2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 860 home fires that began with decorations (excluding Christmas trees). These fires caused an annual average of one civilian death, 41 injuries and \$13.4 million in direct property damage. One fifth (20 percent) of the decoration fires started in the kitchen; one out of six (seventeen percent) started in the living room, family room or den.

Carbon Monoxide

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of CO. In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine such calls per hour. The number of incidents increased 96 percent from 40,900 incidents reported in 2003. This increase is most likely due to the increased use of CO detectors, which alert people to the presence of CO.



IN MEMORY



Marie Davis Reel—Kitzmiller Auxiliary

Delores Cooper—Bittinger Auxiliary

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. John 14:27

Midland Fire Company
 Gun Bash
 Saturday, May 21, 2016
 1 pm—6 pm
 Food and beverages
 Extra Gun Raffles
 Tickets \$20
 Available from members
 or at Firemen's Tavern

Friendsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

Gun and Cash Bash

February 27, 2016 Doors open 11:30 Drawings start 12:00

Winners need not be present to win.

Ticket holders must claim guns.

Tickets available from members for \$25


Eastern Garrett Co. V.F.R.D.
Spaghetti Dinners
 2nd Saturday each month
 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Adults: \$7.00
Children: \$3.50
Turkey Dinners
4th Sunday of: March April September

What is your company doing?

Let us know, we will be glad to advertise your fundraising activities

Spaghetti Dinner 
 Good Will Fire Company
 First Friday of each month
 4pm-6pm Fireman's Armory
 in Lonaconing

Midland Fire Company
 501 Drawing
 Saturday, January 23, 2016
 3:00—6:00 PM
 Food and Beverages included
 Tickets available from
 members and at the
 Fire Company Tavern

Midland Fire Company 
 Thursdays
 Doors open at 5
 Early Bird quickie at 6
 Games at 7
 3 Jackpots
 Kitchen open—serving
 Hamburgers, Hot Dogs,
 Fries, and Coffee

Georges Creek Ambulance Service
 Selling 2016 Community Calenders—\$5
 @
 Contact Robbie Knox
 301-876-1943
 Patron Listings are being taken

Thank you to John and Nancy Hoglund for their generous donation toward the production and distribution of the Bulletin. They enjoy the information we share with our readers, along with interesting articles, and personal information. "It is a must read for those of us who wish to keep up with the latest fire service news."



The Bulletin

Official publication of the
Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and
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**Getting to the call safely is
the most important job you
have!
Buckle up!
Remember
Everyone Goes Home!**

Keep Your Holidays From Going Up in Flames! Fire Prevention Tips for a Safe and Festive Holiday Season

For most of us, the holiday season represents a time for family festivities and good cheer. What few of us consider is that the holiday season is a time when there is an increased risk of home fires. Many households engage in holiday activities that serve as some of the leading causes of U.S. home fires, including cooking. Christmas trees, candle usage and holiday decorations also significantly contribute to the seasonal causes of home fires. Add to that the hectic nature of the holidays, when people are trying to accomplish multiple tasks at one time, and the chance for home fires grows even more.

“As everyone gets busier during the holidays, we often become rushed, distracted or tired, That’s when home fires are more likely to occur.”

Fortunately, with a little added awareness and some minor adjustments to holiday cooking and decorating, the season can remain festive and safe for everybody. “By taking some preventive steps and following simple rules of thumb, most home fires can be prevented,”

With unattended cooking as the leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire injuries, Stay in the kitchen while you’re frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food. Most cooking fires involve the stovetop, so keep anything that can catch fire away from it, and turn off the stove when you leave the kitchen, even if it’s for a short period of time. If you’re simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly and use a timer to remind you that you’re cooking. Create a “kid-free zone” of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food and drinks are prepared or carried.

Candles are widely used in homes throughout the holidays, and December is the peak month for home candle fires. Statistics show that two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles. Consider using flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles. However, if you do use traditional candles, keep them at least 12” away from anything that can burn, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won’t tip over and are placed on uncluttered surfaces. Avoid using candles in the bedroom where more than one-third of U.S. candle fires begin or other areas where people may fall asleep. Lastly, never leave a child or pet alone in a room with a burning candle.

U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 210 home structure fires caused by Christmas trees per year. Three of every ten of them is caused by electrical problems, and one in four result from a heat source that’s too close to the tree.

Use the following advice for picking, placing and lighting the tree:

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it’s labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
- If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don’t fall off when touched; before placing it in the stand, cut 2” from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to water it daily.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit, and is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights.
- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.
- After Christmas, get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside the home.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.
- Recycle your tree.

By following these fire prevention tips and measures, you can greatly reduce the risk of fire in your home, and enjoy a safe holiday season. “The holidays can quickly turn from joyful to tragic when a fire occurs,” “By taking simple precautions, people can avoid potential fire hazards, and make this time of year a healthy and happy one.”