



ANNUAL REPORT

FY2018



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Executive Director's Message



On behalf of the Kentucky Fire Commission, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report. This report highlights the accomplishments and achievements of the past year and represents the success, dedication, and effort put forth by all members of this organization.

Our team continues to lobby on behalf of our state's firefighters, monitoring bills that affect the fire service, including pension restructuring legislation. The Fire Commission will continue to monitor the pension bill as it progresses. We are also pleased to announce increased payouts for Firefighter Training Incentive Pay as well as State Aid. These increased amounts became law during the latest session.

The Fire Commission continues its quest for fire service cancer prevention, purchasing additional gear washers (extractors) for several area offices and fire departments, and implementing updated decon procedures for live fire training participants. Our SFRT program saw several additions to curriculum, equipment and fleet. A lease was signed to move the Area 10 office, new construction was completed on the Area 13 office and construction began on the new Area 7 office.

We participated in several events on the national level, as well as numerous regional events, schools and conferences. FY2018 was busy as usual.

We must thank the Kentucky Community and Technical College System for their continued support of our organization and for standing with us in our commitment to serve firefighters and citizens in the Commonwealth.

It is our goal to ensure all of our programs are continually evolving to ensure our firefighters and fire departments are the best they can be. The Fire Commission and its employees take pride in providing exceptional service to the firefighters of the Commonwealth. We remain dedicated to our mission of strengthening the fire service in Kentucky and could not do so without your support. We have several projects in progress and look forward to another strong year.

Ronnie Day
Executive Director

State of State Fire Rescue Training



It seems like not that long ago we were putting together our first annual report, and here we are, publishing our second. Time certainly does not halt for State Fire Rescue Training! FY2018 was no exception, and we saw another productive and successful year.

SFRT remains committed to providing both quality and excellence in training, reaching over 106,000 students in FY2018 through departmental, collegiate, industrial and fire school instruction. A large amount of curriculum was updated or implemented this past year, ensuring we are offering the latest in fire service instruction to our students.

Our credible and knowledgeable instructors can be found providing instruction nearly every day of the year. We have classes

tailored to the most beginner of firefighters all the way up to extremely specialized, advanced offerings. Our 14 area offices and the National Responder Preparedness Center do a tremendous job of ensuring Kentucky's departments receive the training they need. Our IFSAC accreditation testing program works hard to promote standards-based, professional certifications for our firefighters.

Firefighter safety and education is our top priority and we would like to thank you for your support of Kentucky's fire service as we strive to be one of the nation's premier fire and emergency response training organizations.

Marc Rudder
Director of SFRT





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Committees of the Board

- ♦ Finance
- ♦ Public Education
- ♦ Loans
- ♦ Education
- ♦ Training Facilities
- ♦ Personnel
- ♦ Health & Wellness
- ♦ Eligibility

FY2018 Board of Directors Representation

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary

Greg Dearing
Joe Baer
Rich Meyer

Paid Firefighters

Joe Baer
Rick Daugherty

Volunteer Firefighters

Patrick Lucas
Daron Britain

Paid Fire Chiefs

Kevin Tyler

County Judge Executive

James Nickell

General Public

Rich Meyer

Business & Industry

Greg Dearing
Pam Dickens

Trustee-Fire Protection

William Lilly

Volunteer Fire Chiefs

Dave Goldsmith

Mayors

Teresa Rochetti-Cantrell

KCTCS Chancellor

Larry Ferguson

Practicing Physician

Dr. William Melahn

KY Division of EM

Michael Dossett

State Fire Marshal

Mike Haney

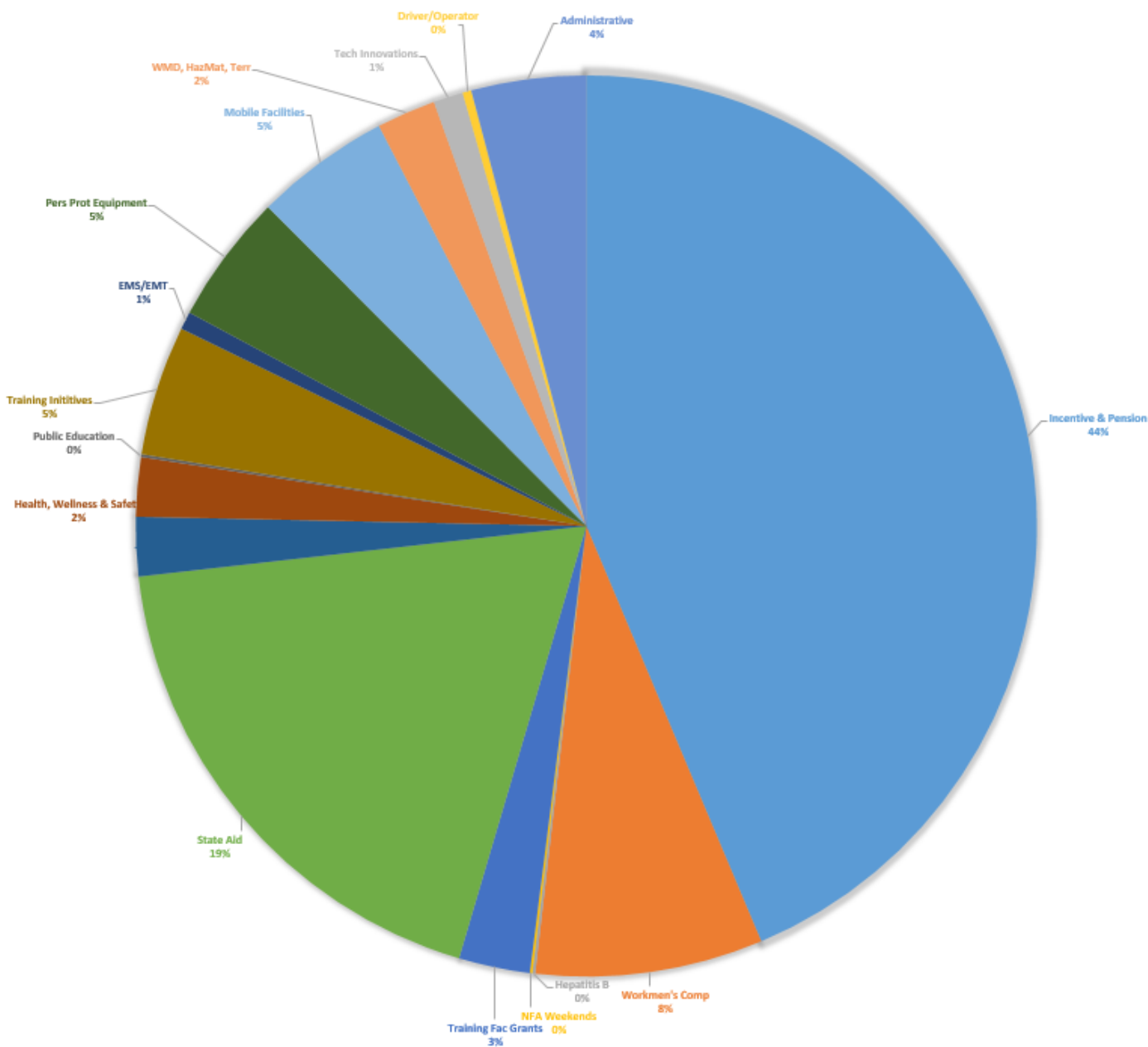


Mission

The Kentucky Fire Commission is committed to enhancing safety and education within the fire service for the citizens and industries within the Commonwealth through standardized special and technical education, training, communication, coordination and the distribution of funds to the agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Fire Commission Expense Categories FY2018



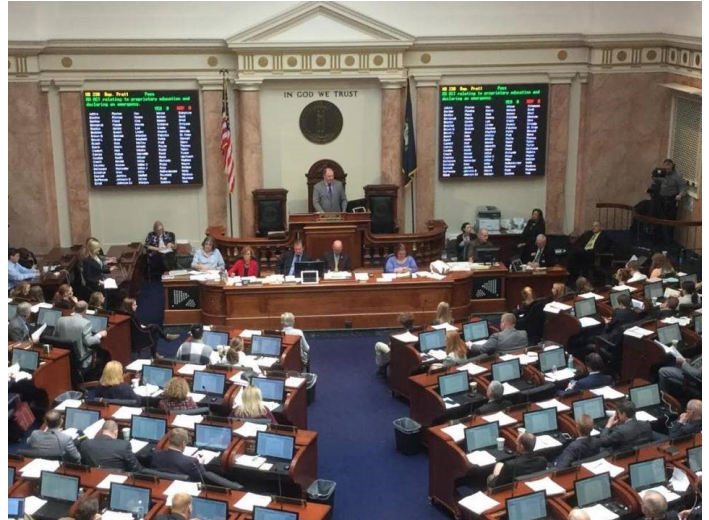


The 2018 Legislative session was busy and lengthy. The session wrapped up on the mandatory end date of April 15, 2018. Fire Commission representatives continue to work hard in Frankfort to protect the interests of Kentucky's fire service.

Kentucky's pension system was the most discussed issue that the legislature faced in 2018. Senate Bill 151 made many changes to retirement systems affecting firefighters. At the time of press of this publication, the validity of these changes are still being held up in the court system.

While there was not legislation to address the Cancer Presumption issue, legislators were able to attach language to HB 2, to name 12 types of cancers diagnosed in firefighters.

Fire Commission representatives collaborated with other representatives of the fire service to educate legislators on several other bills that could have had a negative impact on the fire service. Ultimately, these bills were kept from passing.



Fire Commission delegates traveled to Washington, DC in April to attend the Congressional Fire Service Institute Conference and to meet with Kentucky's representatives to lobby their support of the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018, which would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters. The bill passed out of the Senate Committee and into the U.S. Senate for review.





Highlights of this past session include:

- **HB95—Removes the cap on fire taxing districts. DID NOT PASS.**
- **HB96—Arson investigation training requirements. PASSED.**
- **HB122—Reporting requirements for volunteer fire departments. PASSED.**
- **HB140 & SB90—Language to lock in the \$4,000 annual Training Incentive Pay and \$11,000 State Aid. PASSED.**
- **HB167—An act relating to abandoned infants; that if the fire station is staffed that it is a safe place. PASSED.**
- **HB185—An act relating to death-in-the-line-of-duty benefits; raised the pension benefit from 25% up to 75% of monthly salary. PASSED.**
- **HB200—A Bill funding the Fire Commission and State Fire Rescue Training for the next two fiscal years. PASSED.**
- **HB362—Amend KRS 61.565 to provide that CERS employer contribution rate shall not increase by more than 12% per year over the prior fiscal year from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2028; amend KRS 18A.225 to provide that employers ceasing participation in the window may still participate in the Kentucky Employees Health Plan for their employees; provide that for purposes of codification, the provisions of HB185 shall prevail over the provisions of SB151 in the event of a conflict where the same statutes are amended; EMERGENCY**
- **HB366—Kentucky tax reform bill making adjustments in tangible and inventory tax affecting fire taxing districts. Fire taxing districts should receive the same amount that they received previously. PASSED**
- **SB142—Provides training for telecommunicators (T-CPR). PASSED.**



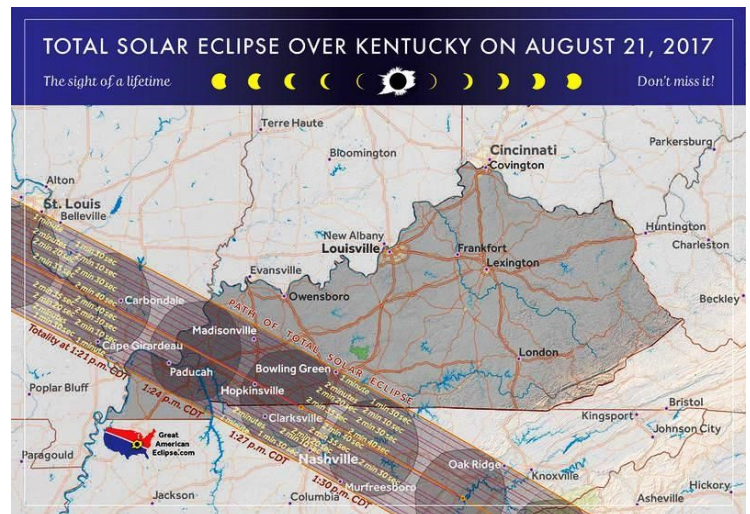
Major Event Participation

National Fire Academy Training Weekend
Kentucky State Fair
Solar Eclipse 2017
Hurricane Irma Relief Deployment
Junior Firefighter Camp
Bryant Stiles Officers' School
Governor's Safety & Health Conference
State Fire School

Solar Eclipse 2017

For the first time in 99 years, a complete solar eclipse was visible within a ribbon that spanned the contiguous United States; August 21, 2017 also marked the first time since 1979 that a solar eclipse was visible to anyone on the United States mainland.

Twenty-one counties in all or parts of SFRT Areas 1, 2, 3, and 4 were found to be in the path of totality, with the national epicenter of



the event taking place on a farm in Cerulean. A cadre of local, state and federal government organizations, as well as the private sector, joined forces to ensure the 116,000 visitors to the region remained safe throughout this historic event.

The Kentucky Fire Commission strategically placed command trailers, equipment and personnel throughout Kentucky's path of totality. Area Coordinators from these offices served as liaisons between local fire departments, local 911 centers, and state emergency management officials.

Event Participation



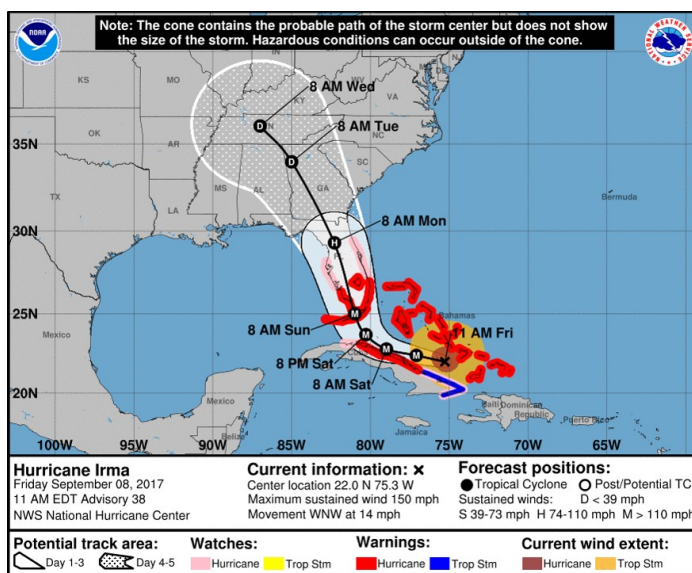
Hurricane Irma Relief Deployment

Hurricane Irma befell the Florida coast on September 10, 2017, leaving a devastating wake of destruction in its path. To help alleviate local resources that became inundated and overwhelmed in hurricane response, the State of Florida requested deployment of EMS responders, ambulances, support personnel and vehicles/

equipment under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Representatives from eight agencies assisted the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management in varying capacities with this mission.

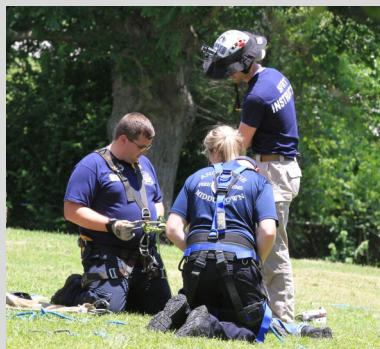
The Fire Commission mobilized and deployed critical communications equipment for the strike team and served in an administrative capacity as Communications Specialists for the mission.





State Fire School

"Through the Years—Moving the Kentucky Fire Service Forward"



The 89th annual Kentucky State Fire School was held June 6-10, 2018 in Lexington.

Forty-five classes were conducted, with offerings in both seminar and hands-on. Total student seats numbered 2043 over the length of the school and represented 324 agencies from throughout Kentucky and beyond.

2018 guest speaker Chief Tony Watson (Pigeon Forge, TN Fire Department) offered his insight on scene management during the 2016 Great Smoky Mountain wildfires, what went right, and lessons to be learned as incident commander on large-scale disasters.

The Exhibit Showcase was expanded this year to include more offerings for the entire family. An ice cream social, petting zoo, Kids Korner, Sparky the Fire Dog, DJ and door prizes galore kept attendees busy throughout the show. The 3rd Annual Fire Truck Pull was again held during Friday evening's festivities and drew a large crowd.

Junior Firefighter Program

The 2nd Annual Kentucky Junior Firefighter Camp was held in November at JM Feltner 4-H camp in London. Sixty-one participants from 25 departments spent three days enhancing their skills in various fireground operations, learning to function as a team, and networking with junior firefighters from across Kentucky.

The Fire Commission currently recognizes 282 junior programs.

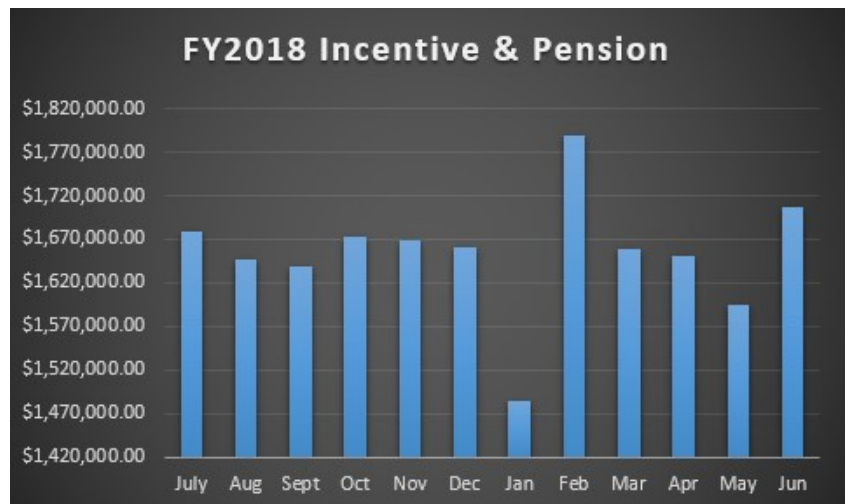


Incentive & Pension

The Incentive & Pension fund continues to supplement eligible local governments, plus an amount equal to the required employers contribution on the supplement to the defined benefit pension plan, or to a plan qualified under Section 401(a) or Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended.

To be eligible for incentive pay, firefighters must have a minimum of 400 training hours, work at least 2,080 hours and earn at least \$8,000 annually. To maintain eligibility all paid firefighters in the department must complete one hundred (100) hours of training annually.

\$19,854,535.00 was distributed to qualifying firefighters during FY2018.





Health & Wellness

Combat Challenge



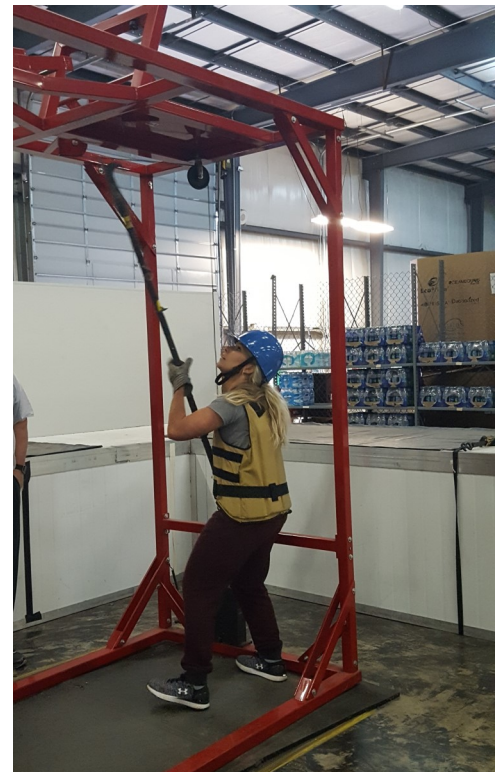
The Fire Commission hosted the Scott Firefighter World Challenge XXVI in October. Over 300 participants from the United States and beyond competed in individual and team events on a course designed to encourage firefighter fitness and demonstrate the profession's rigors to the public. This event was televised by ESPN.



The Combat Challenge returned to Lexington in June for one leg of the Challenge Tour.

CPAT

Since 2013, administrative regulations in the state of Kentucky mandate all newly hired career firefighters pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). CPAT is set up to develop a fair and valid evaluation tool in the selection of firefighters to ensure that all firefighter candidates possess the physical ability to complete critical tasks effectively and safely. CPAT is a sequence of events requiring the participant to progress along a predetermined path from event to event in a continuous manner. Events include: Stair Climb, Hose Drag, Equipment Carry, Ladder Raise and Extension, Forcible Entry, Search, Rescue and Ceiling Breach and Pull.



14

Testing Sessions

984

Candidates

710

Testing Attempts

620

Passing Tests

Health & Wellness

Cancer Awareness

The Fire Commission continued their quest for cancer awareness and prevention in the fire service during FY2018.

Additional turnout gear washers were installed at several SFRT area offices as well as select fire departments. These extractors are also available for use by outside fire departments statewide to launder gear.

With the increased awareness of the occupational exposure of cancer causing agents to firefighters, SFRT implemented a decontamination program beginning at State Fire School. Each SFRT area office has been supplied with a decontamination kit that will be set up during NFPA 1403 Live Fire Training classes. All instructors and students that participate in these classes will undergo decontamination upon completion of live fire evolutions.



Hepatitis B Vaccinations

During FY2018, the Fire Commission's voluntary Hepatitis B vaccination program assisted in providing funds for 143 firefighters to receive immunizations.

Training Facility Grants

The Fire Commission awarded \$1.2 million to 32 departments for training facility grants.

Low Interest Loans

**11 low interest
loans distributed
in FY2018**

\$543,668.63

Total funds distributed

Thermal Imaging Camera Grants

**141 departments
awarded grant monies
for reimbursement of
thermal imaging camera
purchase**



Fire Department Audits—Chapter 75 & Chapter 273 Departments

Fire Commission staff perform audits of KRS Chapter 75 fire departments with annual revenues less than \$100,000. With the passing of HB 122 in the 2018 Legislative Session, which changed reporting requirements, all KRS Chapter 273 fire departments are now required to report their financials to the Fire Commission as well.

KRS Chapter 273 fire departments were impacted by four sections in this bill:

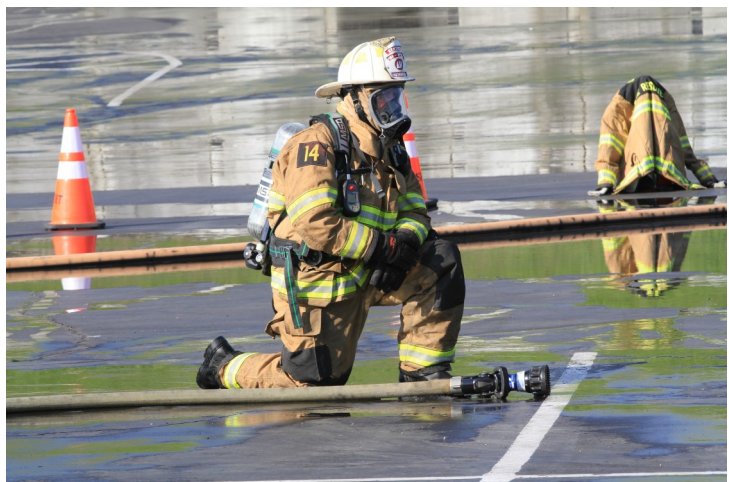
- (5) The Commission shall ensure that every fire department shall at least once every four (4) years be subject to a financial review that shall include procedures developed by the Commission and approved by the Auditor of Public Accounts in advance. The Auditor of Public Accounts shall also approve subsequent changes to these procedures.
- (6) The Commission **may** require any fire department with the higher of annual receipts from all sources or annual expenditures equal to or greater than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) but less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to once every four (4) years be subject to an independent audit in the manner specified in KRS 65A.030(2).
- (7) The Commission shall ensure that every fire department with the higher of annual receipts from all sources or annual expenditures equal to or greater than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for two (2) consecutive fiscal years is **audited annually** in the manner specified in KRS 65A.030(2) until its annual revenues or expenditures are less than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).
- (8) The Auditor of Public Accounts may, upon request, examine and review the reports and all related work papers and documents relating to a financial review or audit under this section.

Fire Department Audits—Training Records

The Fire Commission continues to audit records of all departments for training hours compliance to ensure proper disbursement of both Incentive Pay and State Aid funds.

The Fire Commission's team of three auditors performed 194 departmental audits in FY2018.

Audits are conducted by SFRT region.





State Aid

The Fire Commission's State Aid program is available to all qualifying volunteer fire departments in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Kentucky Fire Commission allots \$11,000 on an annual basis to each qualifying volunteer fire department in cities of all classes.

In FY2018, 704 departments were awarded State Aid for a total of \$7,666,650 distributed. Funds must be allocated toward specific expenditures approved by the Fire Commission.

Funds must be spent in total each fiscal year. Departments may hold funds over into the following fiscal year to acquire enough funds for a more substantial project. Partial carryover is disallowed.

Funds may also be applied toward Fire Commission loan payments.



By The Numbers





In Memoriam

*The lives of Ted Collett, David Conley, Terry Culver, Joseph Johnson **III**, Jeffrey Millay, and Angela Mullins were honored in October at the Kentucky Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.*





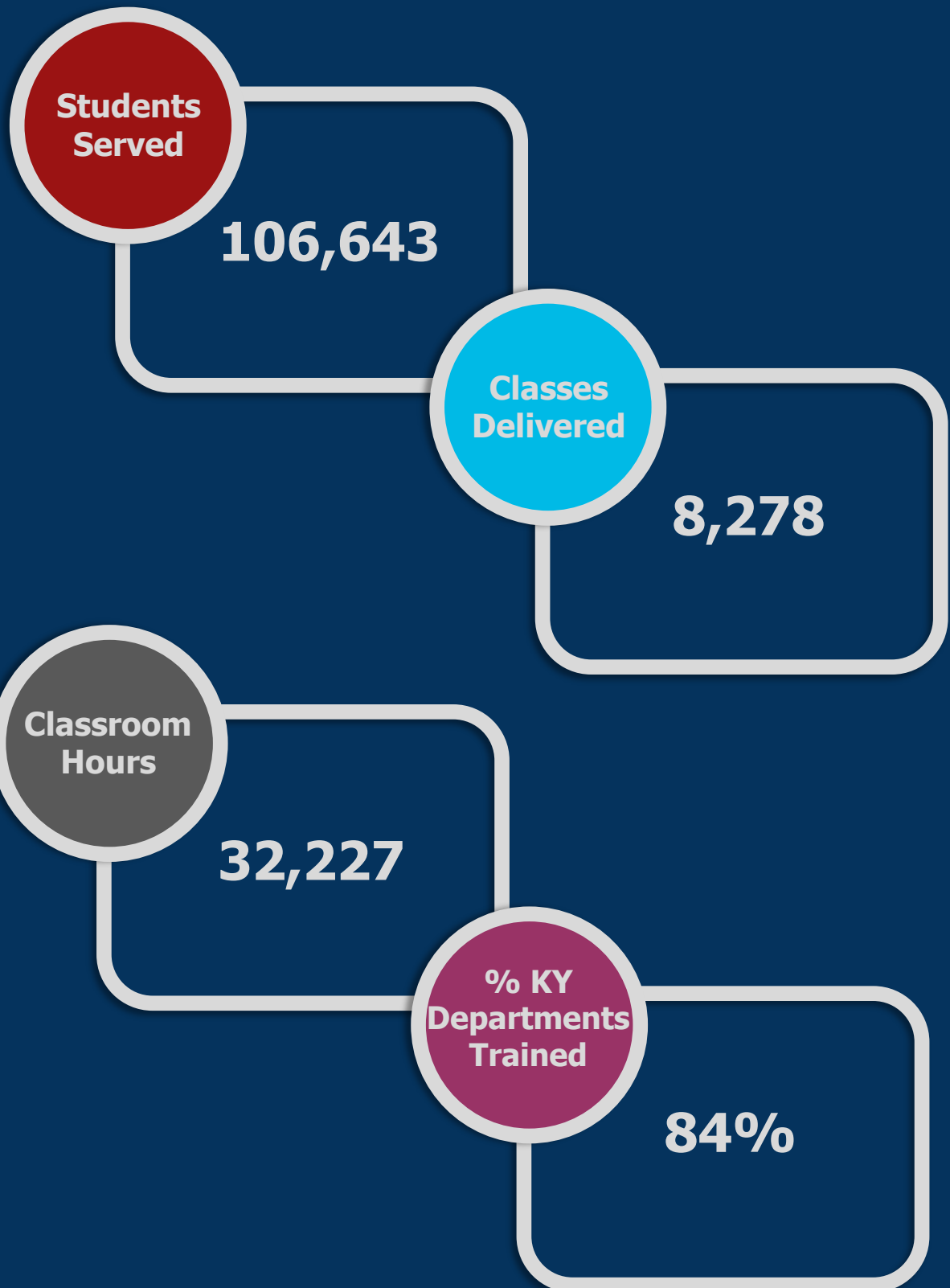
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Fire Rescue Training is to plan, direct, and administer a quality, comprehensive and uniformly delivered training program through the most efficient use of available resources to assist in meeting the training needs of fire, rescue and other emergency services personnel so that lives and property may be saved more safely and effectively. In addition, to provide health and safety training programs for industries, institution, government agencies and other such entities to assist in meeting their training needs mandated by federal, state and local laws.

VISION

The vision of Fire Rescue Training is to be recognized as a national leader in providing comprehensive educational programs for current and future emergency responders at the local, regional, state and national levels.

SFRT By The Numbers





Area 1—Paducah

Charlie Lott, Coordinator

Kelly Harris, Field Office Coordinator

Area 2—Princeton

Mark Boaz, Coordinator

Kelly Bolin, Field Office Coordinator

Area 3—Calhoun

Jimmy VanCleve, Coordinator

Joe Dennison, Paramedic Prog Coord

Mandy Ward, Field Office Coordinator

Area 4—Bowling Green

John Weatherbee, Coordinator

Tamara Steele, Field Office Coordinator

Area 5—Elizabethtown

Rusty Todd, Coordinator

Ashley McWaters, Field Office Coordinator

Area 6—Louisville

Mike Wallingford, Coordinator

Susan Singleton, Field Office Coordinator

Area 7—Burlington

Bill Birkle, Coordinator

Teresa Adamisin, Field Office Coordinator

Area 9—Morehead

Duane Suttles, Coordinator

Tammy Duncan, Field Office Coordinator

Area 10—Ashland

Mark Hammond, Coordinator

Pam McAllister, Field Office Coordinator

Area 11—Paintsville

Greg Gray, Coordinator

Cheryl Fannin, Field Office Coordinator

Area 12—Hazard

Greg Reams, Coordinator

Shannon Jones, Field Office Coordinator

Area 13—London

Chantz McPeck, Coordinator

Margaret Melton, Field Office Coordinator

Area 14—Jamestown

Josh Whitis, Coordinator

Rob Garland, Field Office Coordinator

Area 15—Lexington

Brian Steele, Coordinator

Casey Smith, Field Office Coordinator

Industrial Coordinators

Rick Larkins, Area 6

Gary Hall, Area 13

SFRT Degree Program



The AAS Fire/Rescue Science Technology Program prepares for the challenges facing today's emergency responders. The program offers courses in:

- Fire Suppression
- Fire Prevention
- Technical Rescue
- Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Medical Care
- Leadership

Students may enter the program with or without experience in emergency services. The degree, certificate, and diploma programs that are offered can help in obtaining employment in various emergency service fields, or if already a firefighter, help assist in promotional opportunities. The program may be continued as a 2+2 program with Western Kentucky University's Systems Management Program.

Academic certificates are also available for Emergency Medical Technician, Basic Firefighter, Advanced Firefighter, and Fire Officer. A Fire Chief diploma is offered as well.

Approximately 194 Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees were awarded to students completing in 2017-2018.

Further degree program information can be found on the Fire Commission's web page under the State Fire Rescue Training header.

KCTCS Fire/Rescue Science Technology Courses Offered At:

- Ashland CTC
- Bluegrass CTC
- Elizabethtown CTC
- Gateway CTC
- Jefferson CTC
- Madisonville CTC
- Maysville CTC
- Owensboro CTC
- Southcentral KY CTC
- Somerset CTC
- West KY CTC



SFRT's degree program has been accredited by IFSAC since 2004



**Accredited Certification
Coordinator: Larrel Alley**

**Testing Coordinator:
Christy Rodgers**

Available Certifications:

- **Hazmat Awareness**
- **Hazmat Operations**
- **Hazmat Core**
- **Firefighter I**
- **Firefighter II**
- **Fire Instructor I**
- **Fire Instructor II**
- **Fire Officer I**
- **Airport Firefighter**
- **Driver Operator**
- **Driver Operator Pumper**
- **Driver Operator Aerial**
- **Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply**

Kentucky recognizes the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) as its certification board. In addition to its certificate program, IFSAC also provides governing for the Fire Commission/State Fire Rescue Training's Fire-Rescue Science Technology degree program.

IFSAC accreditation is based on a peer-review process. During FY2018, Fire Commission employees participated in four site visits to review each entity's IFSAC program. Contingents also traveled to two IFSAC conferences during FY2018. Kentucky's program is up for review and reaccreditation in July 2018.

Written tests are administered monthly in each area office as well as by appointment at the SFRT Area 9 office. 2204 seals were issued from 3200 written tests. Nine skills testing sessions were offered across the state during FY2018, with 1150 candidates.

Beginning in FY2018, testing and fees were increased to \$25 each attempt. Reciprocity fees were also increased to \$25 per issuing entity.

EXTERNAL CURRICULUM UPDATES

National Fire Academy

- 3 Leadership in Supervision Courses

Robert Burke

- Response to Fentanyl Incidents

NAFTD

- Alternative Fuel Vehicles

IFSTA

- HazMat for First Responders
- HazMat Technician
- Structural Firefighting & Tactics
- Vehicle Extrication
- Fire & Emer Svcs Instructor 8th Ed

Jones & Bartlett

- Fire & Life Safety Educator
- Trench Rescue

PennWell

- Art of Reading Smoke

NFPA

- NFPA 1403

Transcaer

- Ethanol

Curriculum & Special Projects Coordinator: Casey Hall

SFRT CURRICULUM UPDATES

THE FOLLOWING SFRT COURSES WERE DEVELOPED OR REVISED THIS YEAR:

- The Silent Mayday
- ARFF Awareness
- Basic Fire Investigations for KY FFs
- FD Planning/Response to Weather Emergencies
- Pump Ops Simulator Information



Major Purchases, Leases, or Construction

- Accredited Certification Testing Engine
- Peterbilt Daycab Tractor
- Instructor Turnout Gear
- MSA G1 SCBA
- Area 10 Office
- Area 13 Office

National Responder Preparedness Center



The National Responder Preparedness Center provides quality training for the Commonwealth, America's Armed Forces, and students from across the nation.

Training is customized to include technologies and methodologies to meet the needs of the fire service, emergency medical services, the U.S. military and all other response agencies.

Coordinator: Marc Henderson

Field Office Coordinator: John Vessels

FY2018 Notable NRPC Training and Events

- Lease finalized for 60 additional adjoining acres
- Multi-day instructional course at Arnold Air Force Base with FireBlast Trailer
- Owensboro Fire Department Recruit Training
- 761st KY National Guard Live Fire and Hazmat Training
- Took delivery of 2017 Rosenbauer Pumper
- Served 1,049 students during 433 instructional hours
- Hosted over 30 fire classes including High Angle Technician, Hazmat Technician, Fire Instructor I & II, Recruit Weeks, select SFRT Area 3 Paramedic classes, and Division of Forestry Driver's Training
- Hosted several Kentucky Fire Commission Train-the-Trainers
- Installed extractor for PPE gear and placed into operations



***The Governor's Commission on Fire Protection,
Personnel, Standards and Education***

***Proudly serving firefighters
of the
Commonwealth since 1972***



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