



FY2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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*Congratulations to Ronnie Day on his retirement
from the Fire Commission in January.*

*Ronnie led the Fire Commission
as Executive Director from 2003—2019.*

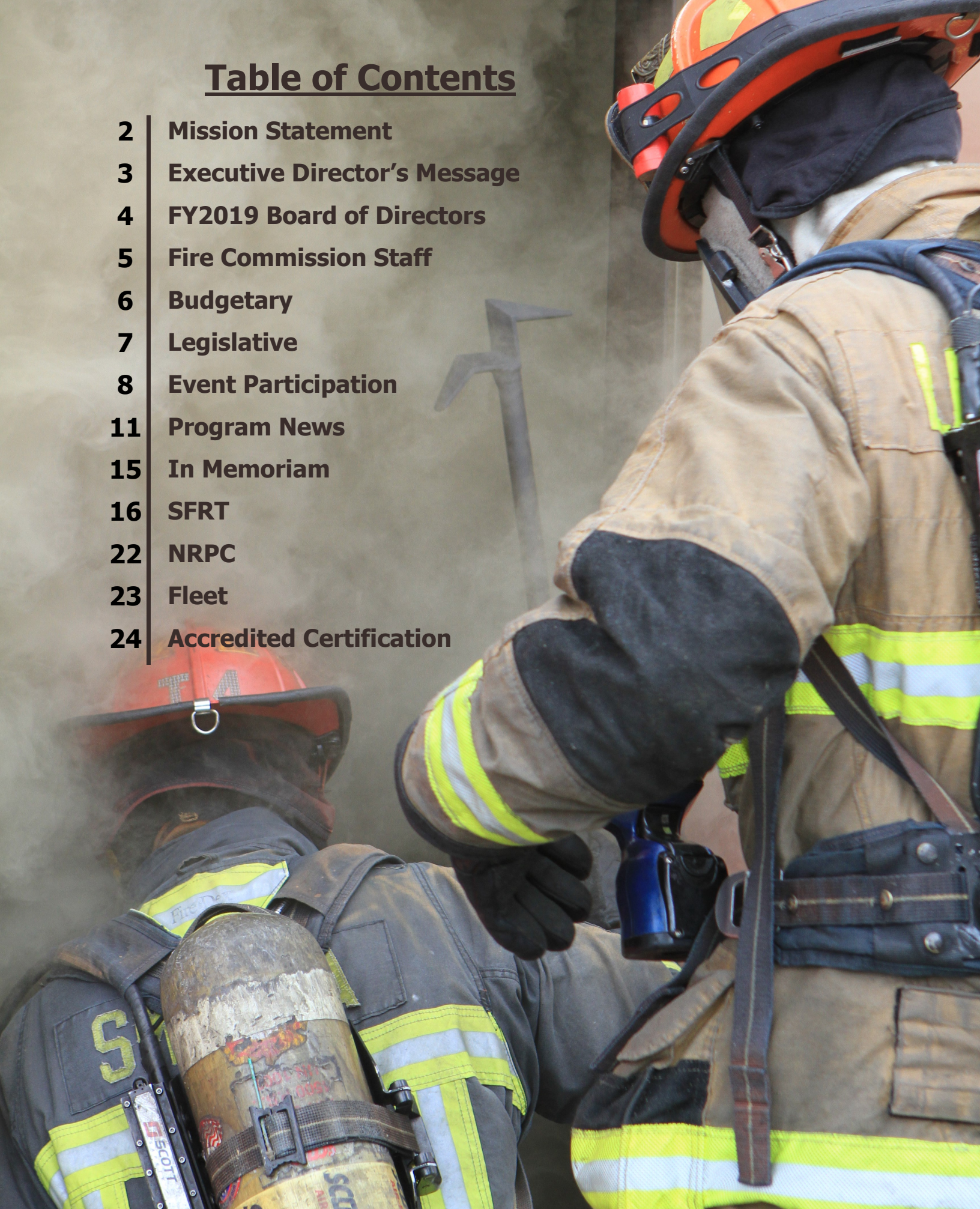
Best of luck in your new ventures

and

Thank you for your years of service to the firefighters of Kentucky!

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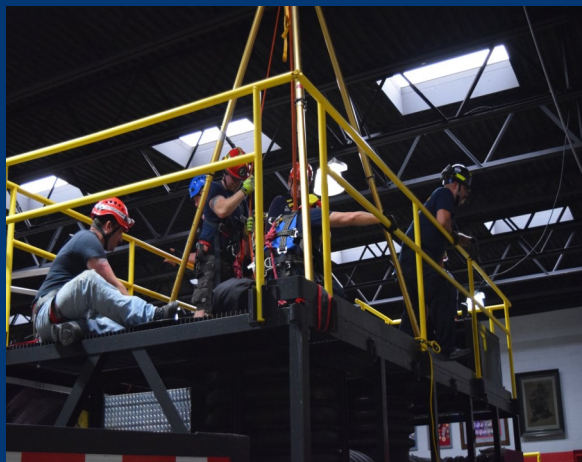


The Kentucky Fire Commission is committed to enhancing safety and education within the fire service for the citizens and industries within the Commonwealth through standardized special and technical education, training, communication, coordination and the distribution of funds to the agencies throughout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

Mission Statement



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the Kentucky Fire Commission, it is my pleasure to present the Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report. This publication highlights the accomplishments and achievements of the past year and represents the collaborative efforts of our team to improve the fire service in Kentucky.

I would be remiss to begin by not thanking the efforts of Ronnie Day, who retired from the Fire Commission in January after 16 years as the Executive Director. We are very gracious to the dedication and efforts during Ronnie's tenure that saw marked change for the betterment of firefighting in the Commonwealth.

Our legislative team had another busy session, monitoring several bills affecting the fire service. We continue to monitor the ongoing pension restructuring bill as it progresses and will provide the latest information as it is updated in Frankfort.

The Fire Commission maintains its quest to improve health and wellness for Kentucky's firefighters. During FY2019, we continued cancer awareness and prevention efforts, providing a number of classes throughout the state to convey the importance of this topic. We offered assistance in placing exercise equipment in fire departments as a means of firefighters to take control of their own health and distributed several sets of equipment in FY2019.

State Fire Rescue Training remains a bustling venture in FY2019. SFRT continued to provide training to an excess of 100,000 students, expanded their training fleet with new simulators, enacted several new or updated curriculum programs, and moved into two new area offices.

Our personnel are the pulse of the Fire Commission. Their commitment is the driving force behind our daily operations and beyond. During FY2019, they have represented the Fire Commission at numerous regional events, schools and conferences, and also through events at the national level. We have hired several new full-time employees and wished a fond adieu to others – a resounding thank you goes out to longtime Fire Commission employees Therese Cheney and Becky Blair for their years of service and dedication to the Fire Commission. We wish them the best in their retirements.

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

As we look to the future, we will continue to evolve our programs to ensure our firefighters and fire departments are the best they can be. Our mission of strengthening the fire service in Kentucky could not be done without your support and we look forward to another strong year serving the Commonwealth.

A handwritten signature in white ink, reading "Bruce W. Fisher".



FY2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Committees of the Board

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

FY2019 Board of Directors Representation

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary

Greg Dearing
Joe Baer
Scott Lawson

Paid Firefighters

Joe Baer
Rick Daugherty

Practicing Physician

Dr. William Melahn

Volunteer Firefighters

Daron Britain
Scott Lawson

KY Division of EM

Michael Dossett

Paid Fire Chiefs

Sean Dreisbach
David Howser

State Fire Marshal

Mike Haney

Paid County Firefighters

Chris Bartley

County Judge Executive

Joe Choate

Volunteer Fire Chiefs

Patrick Lucas
Lonnie Madden

General Public

Dustin Isaacs

Mayors

Andrew Scott

Business & Industry

Greg Dearing
Daniel Iaconi

KCTCS Chancellor

Kristin Williams

Trustee-Fire Protection

John Bunnell



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Executive Director	Ronnie Day	<i>Retired January 31, 2019</i>
Director State Fire Rescue Training	Marc Rudder	marc.rudder@kctcs.edu
Division Director Fire Commission / Interim Executive Director	Bruce Roberts	bruce.roberts@kctcs.edu
Director of Finance	Brenda Goddard	brenda.goddard@kctcs.edu
Director of Fleet/Equipment	Gilbert "Tiger" Robinson	tiger.robinson@kctcs.edu
Director of Legislative Affairs	Michael "Howdy" Kurtsinger	michael.kurtsinger@kctcs.edu

SUPPORT STAFF

Administrative Assistant	Carolyn Threlkeld	carolyn.threlkeld@kctcs.edu
Financial Analyst	Peggy Bryant	peggy.bryant@kctcs.edu
Fire Commission Training Auditor	Eric Bach	eric.bach@kctcs.edu
Fire Commission Training Auditor	Chuck Bonta	chuck.bonta@kctcs.edu
Fire Commission Training Auditor	Jeremy Rodgers	jeremy.rodgers@kctcs.edu
Lead Admin Sys Prog Analysis	Paul Adams	paul.adams@kctcs.edu
Marketing/PR Manager	Greg Hiles	greg.hiles@kctcs.edu
Office Coordinator	Mary Adams	mary.adams@kctcs.edu
Office Coordinator	Lisa Bradley	lbradley0017@kctcs.edu
Office Coordinator	Ericka Cole	ericka.cole@kctcs.edu
Office Coordinator	Delores Montgomery	delores.montgomery@kctcs.edu
Office Coordinator	Bonita Oldham	bonita.oldham@kctcs.edu
Office Coordinator	Candace Price	candace.price@kctcs.edu



BUDGETARY

42% Incentive & Pension

17% State Aid

9% Training Program

7% Workmen's Comp

5% Training Initiatives

5% Mobile Facilities

4% WMD, HazMat, Terr

4% Administrative

7% Other

Hepatitis B
NFA Weekends
Training Fac Grants
Health, Wellness & Safety
Public Education
EMS/EMT
Pers Prot Equipment
Tech Innovations
Driver/Operator



LEGISLATIVE

During the 2019 Kentucky Legislative Session, representatives of Kentucky's fire service and the Kentucky Fire Commission remained diligent in their quest to educate legislators and protect the interests of the Kentucky's fire service. Hundreds of bills were submitted, many which directly affected emergency services of the Commonwealth. The public pension system was again heavily discussed with no resolution at the conclusion of the session.

Several bills made their way through Committee and were ultimately signed by the Governor:

SB1

This act related to school safety, school security and declaring an emergency.

SB92

This act related to require training on awareness of sexual violence for Emergency Medical Technicians.

SB104

This act related to fire prevention to create a new section of KRS Chapter 227.200 to 227.410 to provide that beginning July 15, 2020, Class B firefighting foam shall not be used for firefighting training or testing purposes.

SB140

This act amended KRS 95A.262, relating to the Commission on Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education, to provide for expenditures for Hepatitis A and B inoculations up to \$500,000 per fiscal year, to clarify allotment for qualified department language and clarify loan program language.

HB49

This act related to the levy of property taxes by local government entities.

HB106

This act related to emergency medical services.

HB176

This act related to surcharges on insurance policies used to supplement both the Law Enforcement Foundation Program fund and the Firefighters Foundation fund.

HB273

This act related to professional and volunteer firefighters programs, declaring an emergency, and making an appropriation therefor and also created a new section of KRS 95A.200 to 95A.300 to define and establish the Alan "Chip" Terry Professional Development and Wellness Program and create funds for the program's administration.

HB339

This act related to cities.

HB375

This act related to call location information to require wireless telecommunications carriers to provide call location information from wireless devices under certain emergency conditions.

Fire Commission delegates traveled to Washington, DC in April to attend the Congressional Fire Service Institute Conference and to meet with Kentucky's representatives and lobby their support of the 9/11 Memorial Act to extend authorization for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001 through fiscal year 2022.

Delegates also discussed funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) Program. They also encouraged legislators to support the full authorized amount of \$2.5 million for the National Firefighter Cancer Registry.



Major Event Participation

National Fire Academy Training Weekend

Kentucky State Fair

Junior Firefighter Camp

Bryant Stiles Officers' School

Governor's Safety & Health Conference

State Fire School

National SkillsUSA Championships

NFA TRAINING WEEKEND

69 instructors with State Fire Rescue Training participated in the 2018 Kentucky In-State Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. Seven courses were delivered as train-the-trainer offerings, allowing personnel to bring this professional development material back to students across the Commonwealth:

- Health & Safety Officer
- Incident Safety Officer
- Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking
- Leadership in Supervision: Frameworks to Success
- Fire Investigations
- Executive Skills
- New Fire Chief



JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER CAMPS

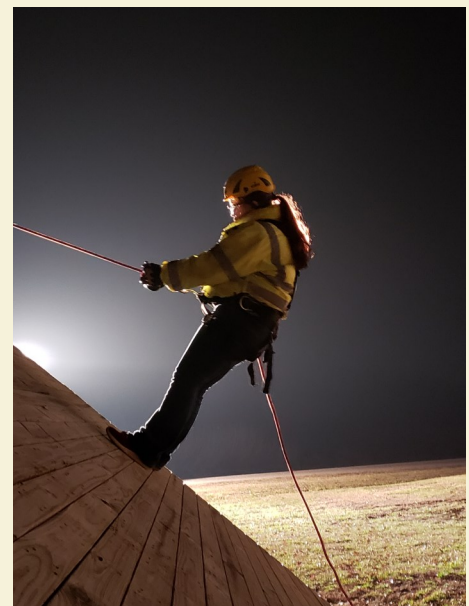
During FY2019, the Fire Commission hosted two junior firefighter camps. The additional camp, held in the spring, expanding a camp offering into Western Kentucky which allowed the Fire Commission to reach a population of junior firefighters who might otherwise be unable to attend the camp in London. These camps allow participants to enhance their skills in various fireground operations, learn to function as a team, and network with junior firefighters from across Kentucky. In an effort to mimic real-life responses, training is conducted day and night in all types of weather conditions.



The fall camp was again held in November at the J.M. Feltner Memorial 4H Camp. 55 juniors from 23 departments spent three days training on personal protective equipment, forcible entry, rope rescue, ventilation and fire control.



The spring edition of junior firefighter camp was hosted in Greenville by the National Responder Preparedness Center and Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center. 41 juniors from 27 departments spent the weekend focusing on special operations training in ropes, high angle rescue, confined space rescue and extrication. A spring snowstorm did not dampen the enthusiasm of this group!



STATE FIRE SCHOOL

The 90th Annual Kentucky State Fire School took place June 6-9 in Lexington.

38 classes were conducted, with offerings in both seminar and hands-on. Total student seats numbered 1,984 over the length of the school and represented 260 agencies from throughout Kentucky and beyond.

Due to renovation and construction of the Lexington Convention Center complex, the Exhibit Showcase was split into two venues—Heritage Hall and Rupp Arena.



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 (1) 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 firefighters in the department must complete one hundred (100) hours of training annually. Eligible firefighters receive \$4,000 per year through this program.

HEPATITIS B VACCINATIONS

During FY2019, the Fire Commission's voluntary Hepatitis B vaccination program assisted in providing funds for 125 firefighters to receive immunizations.

THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA GRANTS

It is the goal of the Kentucky Fire Commission to make sure every department throughout the Commonwealth has at least one thermal imaging camera. 130 departments were awarded grant monies for reimbursement of thermal imaging camera purchases in FY2019.

TRAINING FACILITY GRANTS

The Fire Commission's Training Facility Grants program allows eligible and approved fire departments access to much needed funds to enhance their department's training program with facilities and equipment. This grant is offered every other year. The new cycle will begin in FY2020.

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 236 departmental audits in FY2019.

Audits are conducted by SFRT region.

LOW INTEREST LOANS

The Low Interest Loan program is available for any volunteer fire department that meets certain criteria. Volunteer fire departments can borrow up to (\$75,000) or (75%) of the total cost of the project, whichever is less. Funds in the amount of \$466,206 were distributed to eight departments in FY2019.

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 FY2019, 702 departments were awarded State Aid for a total of \$7,541,000 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.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Cancer Awareness

In efforts to continue to raise awareness of cancer among firefighters and promote prevention of firefighter-related cancers, the Fire Commission placed gear extractors in eight of the Commonwealth's fire departments during FY2019. These specialized washing machines allow carcinogens to be lifted and removed during the cleaning process while maintaining the safety and integrity of the turnout gear fabric and components.

VFD SCBA Grant

State Fire Rescue Training took delivery of a new fleet of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) at the end of FY2018. In FY2019, the Fire Commission set up a grant to assist volunteer departments in need of updated SCBA. SCBA previously used by SFRT that was within manufacturer's recommended date compliance were distributed to select volunteer fire departments meeting grant criteria. 97 departments were awarded two full sets of SCBA, including mask, harness assembly and spare air cylinder.

CPAT

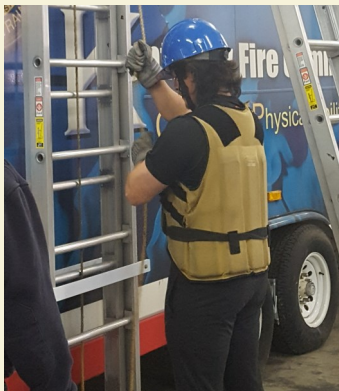
Since 2013, administrative regulations in the state of Kentucky mandate all newly hired career firefighters pass the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT). CPAT is set up to develop a fair and valid evaluation tool in the selection of firefighters to ensure that all firefighter candidates possess the 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. Stations include: Stair Climb, Hose Drag, Equipment Carry, Ladder Raise and Extension, Forcible Entry, Search, Rescue and Ceiling Breach and Pull.

**Rick
Larkins**
CPAT Coordinator

15
Testing Sessions

672
Candidates

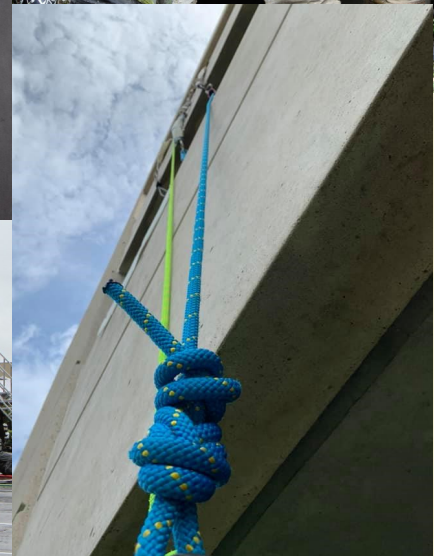
450
Passing Tests



BY THE NUMBERS



52	Paid Departments
665	Volunteer Departments
83	Combination Departments
1,490	150-hr Certifications Issued
1,152	400-hr Certifications Issued



IN MEMORIAM

The lives of James Branham, Terry Bucklew, James Donnelly, Timothy Graft, Walter Hale, Jeffrey Kampschaefer, Matthew Logsdon, David McCrady, Brank McKinsey, Charlie Riggles and James Devon Wells were honored in October at the Kentucky Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service.

In memoriam



STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING



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.



STATE OF STATE FIRE RESCUE TRAINING

It has been another exciting year for State Fire Rescue Training! We have seen many accomplishments during the past year and are proud to present them to you. With the relocation of two area offices, new props and curriculum, and the formation of several committees working to improve SFRT training offerings and operations, we are ever-evolving to make certain we are providing the best training experience for the firefighters of the Commonwealth.

Our 14 area offices and the National Responder Preparedness Center delivered training to over 104,000 students in FY2019 through departmental, collegiate industrial and fire school instruction. These offices remain devoted to firefighter training and education and ensure we offer the most up to date curriculum to our students. This would not be possible without the efforts and dedication of our entire staff, many of whom spend their evening or weekend hours instructing for SFRT.



There have been several train-the-trainer courses for SFRT instructors in FY2019, allowing additional staff members to be able to provide specialized instruction in even more areas of Kentucky. With the purchase of new driving simulators, placed strategically around the state, SFRT is now able to more easily reach departments and promote a controlled environment to increase safety, skills and awareness while driving and operating fire apparatus in a state-of-the-art training atmosphere. Our Accredited Certification and Fire-Rescue Science Technology degree programs underwent re-accreditation site visits during FY2019. Both programs have been successfully credentialed for another five years.

The 90th Kentucky State Fire School was held in June. As one of the longest continuously run fire schools in the nation, this truly is a



testament of the dedication of Kentucky's fire service to education and training. Many organizations put forth time and efforts to ensure this is one of the nation's premiere fire schools and SFRT is proud to be a part of it. How far we have come since that first school!

Firefighter safety and education is our top priority and we wish to thank you for your support of Kentucky's fire service as we strive to be one of the preeminent state training associations in the nation. Our team of 450+ instructors and staff is second to none; they are the driving force behind our success and I must thank each and every one of them.

We have many new things in the works for FY2020 and look ahead to another strong year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John R. Rucker".



SFRT AREA OFFICES



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 Coordinator

Gary Hall, Area 13

SFRT BY THE NUMBERS

104,483

TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED



7,953

CLASSES DELIVERED



34,354

CLASSROOM HOURS



86%

% KY DEPARTMENTS TRAINED



SFRT DEGREE PROGRAM

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



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 258 Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees were awarded to students completing in 2018-2019.



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

SFRT CURRICULUM UPDATES

A number of curriculum programs were updated or developed and distributed during FY2019:

- **Firefighter I**
- **Firefighter II**
- **Live Fire Training**
- **Emergency Scene Rehabilitation**
- **Rapid Intervention Teams**
- **Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS)**
- **Occupational Safety & Health**
- **Wildland Firefighting Strategy, Tactics and Safety**

**Curriculum and Special
Projects Coordinator:
Casey Hall**



NATIONAL RESPONDER PREPAREDNESS CENTER



FY2019 Notable NRPC Training and Events

- Hosted over 30 fire classes including High Angle/Rope Technician, Hazmat Technician, Fire Instructor I & II, Fire Officer I, Recruit Week, Junior Firefighter Camp, Driver/Operator/Mobile Water Supply
- 761st KY National Guard Live Fire and Hazmat Training
- Civil Air Patrol Summer Camp
- Served 1,030 students during 508 instructional hours
- Hosted several Kentucky Fire Commission Train-the-Trainers

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.

- Multi-day instructional course at Arnold Air Force Base with FireBlast Trailer
- 138th Officer Division CPR/First Aid Training Sessions
- Awarded construction bid for driving pad and road to 60-acre property extension
- Took delivery of new High Angle/Rope Rescue Trailer

NRPC Coordinator: Marc Henderson

NRPC Field Office Coordinator: John Vessels



FLEET/FACILITIES/EQUIPMENT



Major Purchases, Leases or Construction

Driver Sim

Area 1 Building

Area 7 Building

High Angle/Rope Trailer NRPC

Facility Upgrades 2, 5, 9

Road Tractors 7, 9



ACCREDITED CERTIFICATION



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 FY2019, Fire Commission employees participated in seven site visits to review each entity's IFSAC program. Contingents also traveled to two IFSAC conferences during FY2019. Both Kentucky's degree program and certificate programs were reviewed and reaccredited in FY2019. This reaccreditation will be valid through 2023, at which time programs must be reviewed and reaccredited again.



Written tests are administered monthly in each area office as well as by appointment at the SFRT Area 9 office. 762 seals were issued from 2,091 written tests. 70 skills testing sessions were offered across the state during FY2019, with 1,039 candidates.

Firefighter I ♦ Firefighter II ♦ Fire Instructor I ♦ Fire Instructor II ♦ Fire Officer I

Hazmat Awareness ♦ Hazmat Operations ♦ Airport Firefighter

Driver Operator ♦ Driver Operator Aerial ♦ Driver Operator Pumper

Accredited Certification Coordinator: Larrel Alley
Testing Coordinator: Christy Rodgers





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

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

