

December 2013

# The Extinguisher

"Putting out the news"

Ashley McDonald, Editor in Chief



## Birthdays

- Matt Young 12/4
- Cumbey Gaines 12/5
- Charles Powell 12/5
- Shandrea Womack 12/6
- Jeff Bratcher 12/8
- Kurt McMahan 12/8
- Carl Peas 12/8
- Sean Wheeler 12/8
- Melvin Holmes 12/13
- Matt Welcome 12/14
- Adam P. Brown 12/20
- Marshall King 12/20
- Craig McBride 12/20
- Mark McCluskey 12/20
- Dale Maynard 12/21
- Matthew Twomey 12/22
- Bob Decker 12/24
- Nicole Miller 12/24
- Jason Norris 12/24
- Lee Douglas 12/25
- Joel Patnode 12/25
- David Frost 12/27
- Josh Jackson 12/29
- Adam Petrig 12/29

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's Fire Administration Offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Tuesday, December 24, 2013 (Christmas Eve)

Wednesday, December 25, 2013 (Christmas Day)

Wednesday, January 1, 2014 (New Year's Day)

If you need assistance, please contact MFRD Headquarters at 615-849-2661.



## TOYS FOR TOTS RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department is once again participating in the collection of toys for Rutherford County's annual "Toys for Tots" event. Toy drop-offs are located at each MFRD fire station. You may also take toys to other participating locations throughout Rutherford County. \*Toys must be new.

On site registration for the toy giveaway is December 2-6 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and December 7 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at 2227 Southpark Drive (Franklin Printing Building).

The actual toy giveaway will take place December 14 from 8:00 am-6:00 pm. You MUST pre-register and have a valid ticket to participate.



If you have any questions about the event or would like to volunteer, please contact Toys for Tots of Rutherford County via email at [toysfortotsrc@gmail.com](mailto:toysfortotsrc@gmail.com).

*And remember, "Every child deserves at least one toy for Christmas!"*

## FOUR PERSONNEL CELEBRATE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH MFRD

Four MFRD Firefighters recently celebrated their one year anniversary with Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department. In November, Adam C. Brown, Ryan Daniel, Justin McCraven, and Matthew Twomey received a new, traditional style helmet to commemorate the occasion.



ADAM C. BROWN



RYAN DANIEL



JUSTIN MCCRAVEN



MATTHEW TWOMEY

# NFPA'S WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



## Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- » Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- » Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- » Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- » Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

### HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- » Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- » Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- » Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- » Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- » Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- » Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



### Before Heading Out or to Bed

**Blow out** lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

### FACTS

- ! **Holiday decoration fires** are most likely to happen in the living room, family room or den.
- ! **Almost half** of all home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ! **Half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

 **Your Source for SAFETY Information**  
NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)

For other holiday safety tips such as [Christmas Tree Safety](#), [Candle Safety](#) or [Cooking Safety](#), visit Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department's [website](#).

# MFRD PERSONNEL ATTEND EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO AIRCRAFT/AIRFIELD INCIDENTS CLASS

With the increased aircraft traffic in Middle Tennessee, Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department is taking proactive measures to prepare personnel for responding to aircraft and airfield emergencies.

A total of 28 MFRD personnel attended a three-day/20-hour course hosted by Smyrna/Rutherford County Airport Authority's Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy in Deason, Tennessee.

The course covered basic procedures for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, commonly referred to as ARFF, for municipal firefighters. Course topics included: Aviation Fire Suppression, General Airfield Safety, Airport Terminology, and Search Procedures for Locating Downed Aircraft. Emergency response to commercial incidents and rescue of occupants were also included in the course.

MFRD recently acquired four mobile aviation radios that will allow the department to communicate with aircraft when necessary. The radios can even be used to detect signals from an aircraft's emergency locator transmitter (ELT) to assist personnel with locating a downed airplane. Personnel got a chance to practice this task while in class.

Chief Joe Johnson with the Department of Public Safety for the Smyrna/Rutherford County Airport Authority said, "We were glad to be able to offer the expertise of our staff to provide this invaluable training opportunity to MFRD. The knowledge gained from this course greatly benefits the flying community in the Murfreesboro area. Pilots can be assured that during an emergency MFRD is ready to respond and address the situation at hand."

Students practiced hands-on activities at the Smyrna/Rutherford County Airport, but also had a day of training at Murfreesboro Municipal Airport. Personnel were able to tour the facilities and visit the Middle Tennessee State University Aerospace Department to learn about their fleet of aircraft which are based at Murfreesboro Municipal Airport.

More than 20 MFRD personnel completed this class in Spring 2013. Director of the Murfreesboro Municipal Airport, Chad Gehrke, commented on MFRD's commitment to proactive training, "The class that we conducted last Spring and this Fall demonstrates the high level of professionalism that we have in our MFRD. MFRD is always striving to learn all they can to be able to respond quicker and more efficiently no matter the facility or type of operation that is occurring in this community." He also mentioned what he gained from the experience, "Through this training, I learned some valuable information as well which we can incorporate here at Murfreesboro Municipal Airport to improve signage and communications with MFRD personnel to assist them with their response at our airport."

MFRD Fire Chief Cumbey Gaines was very appreciative of the opportunity for MFRD personnel to attend this class. "Just last week, the Nashville airport experienced a small plane crash. That confirms to me even more that we did the right thing in preparing our personnel for a local incident. MFRD is fortunate to have a good working relationship with our Murfreesboro area airports, and thankful for the training opportunities we have with them. We are also proud to be able to provide the community with a diverse set of rescue operation services."



MFRD personnel apply foam to an aircraft to simulate the suppression of vapors emitted by various types of aircraft fuel during a hands-on training exercise at the Smyrna/Rutherford County Airport.



A MFRD Firefighter practices rescuing a victim from an aircraft incident during a hands-on training exercise.

## KING NAMED FIREFIGHTER OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER 2013

Firefighter Marshall King has been named Firefighter of the Month for December 2013. He was nominated by Captain/Shift Inspector Ted Pertiller for “going above and beyond the call of duty.” According to Pertiller, Ladder 2 responded to a motor vehicle accident on I-24. One of the occupants had three small children. Ladder 2 assisted the Tennessee Highway Patrol with relocating the children to the Pilot gas station to wait on a ride to school. While waiting on their ride, the children said that they had not eaten. They were planning on eating at school, but they would not be able to because of the accident. Firefighter King took it upon himself to purchase each child something to eat to make sure they did not go hungry. “This unselfish act is what Firefighter of the Month is truly about,” said Assistant Chief Kaye Jernigan.

*King has been with the department since August 1990. This is his first time to receive Firefighter of the Month. Congratulations FF King!!!*



### December Anniversaries

#### 28 YEARS

Kenneth Richmond

#### 26 YEARS

Michael Anderson  
Roger Toombs

#### 22 YEARS

Leon Isaac  
Doug Rivait

#### 16 YEARS

Jamie Bigelow  
Brian Creager  
Jeff Harris

#### 13 YEARS

David Cranford  
Scott Duncan  
Mike Keith  
Tim Lampitt  
Raleigh Marlin  
Paul Oliver  
Adam Petrig

#### 7 YEARS

Troy Tayse

#### 6 YEARS

Britt Gammon  
Kevin Leonard  
Dustin Liddell  
Wesley Slager

#### 3 YEARS

Jacob Follis  
Julia Pitt

## TWO FIRE TRAINEES GRADUATE 10-WEEK RECRUIT CLASS AT TFACA

Two Murfreesboro Fire & Rescue Department Fire Trainees recently completed a 10-week “Recruit/Firefighter I” class at the Tennessee Fire and Codes Academy in Deason, Tennessee.

Tamarius Howse and Marcus King were hired by MFRD on September 3, 2013 as Fire Trainees. They began the 10-week course on September 9 and graduated November 15.

The course covers all aspects of firefighting based on NFPA 1001: Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, with the exception of emergency medical training. Howse and King participated in classroom instruction, nighttime response exercises, and practical training skills including “live” fire scenarios.

Family members of Howse and King were part of a special pinning ceremony during the graduation at TFACA. MFRD’s Deputy Chief Roger Toombs, Assistant Chief Allen Swader, and Shift Commander Tim Swann were present for the occasion.

“We are proud of these two gentlemen and what they accomplished over the last 10 weeks,” said Assistant Chief Swader. “We look forward to seeing how they apply the knowledge and skills they obtained in class.”

King began shift work on November 17 and Howse started on November 18.

To see more photos from the graduation ceremony, check out the [album](#) on MFRD’s Facebook page.



Pictured (L to R): Shift Commander Tim Swann, Fire Trainee Tamarius Howse, Fire Trainee Marcus King, and Deputy Chief Roger Toombs.

