



# FLAMESPREAD

N C State Firemen's  
Association

May 2006

## Bird Flu and You

On March 13, 2006 I was invited to attend a Pandemic Planning Update meeting by Department of Health and human Services.

The 3 types of Flu discussed were **Seasonal** (or Common) flu which is a respiratory illness that can be transmitted person to person and a vaccine is available. **Avian** (or bird) flu is caused by influenza viruses that occur naturally among wild birds. The H5N1 variant is deadly to domestic fowl and can be transmitted from birds to humans. There is no human immunity and no vaccine available. **Pandemic** flu is virulent flu that causes a global out-

break, or pandemic, of serious illness. Because there is little immunity, the disease can be spread easily from person to person. Currently, there is no pandemic flu. There have been 3 influenza pandemics in the past: 1918-1919 (Most Severe) caused at least 5000,000 US deaths; 1957 -1958 (Moderately severe) caused at least 70,000 US deaths; 1968—1969 (Least severe) caused at least 34,000 US deaths.

It is everyone's own responsibility to be prepared when such an event occurs. The benefits of preparation will be many. States and communities will be better



Chief James B. Peele  
President, NCSFA

prepared for any disaster. Preparation will bring peace of mind and the confidence that we are ready to fight a flu pandemic.

If you would like more information on how you can begin to make preparations, please visit the pandemic flu website at: [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

## NCSFA Board of Directors

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## Dates to Remember

June 1, 2006  
Relief Fund Reports Mailed to  
Relief Fund Treasurers  
June 15, 2006  
Fireman of the Year  
Applications Due in office  
August 24—26  
South Atlantic Fire Expo  
N C State Firemen's  
Association Conference  
October 31, 2006  
Relief Fund Reports due in  
office  
November 15, 2006  
2007 Rosters mailed to  
Fire Chiefs to be updated

## 2006 Memorial Service

The 2006 Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, August 24, 2006 in conjunction with our annual conference in Greensboro. This is always such a special time of remembrance for families and loved ones to get together and for the fire service to honor those who have gone before us. The service will begin at 5:00 pm

in the Imperial Ball Room at the Sheraton Four Seasons in Greensboro.

If you know of someone in your department who has passed away in the past year (July 1—June 30) please send an e-mail to [Melissa@ncsfa.com](mailto:Melissa@ncsfa.com) with the Name of the deceased, the name of the Fire De-

partment, and the Date of Death. **We will continue to collect this information until July 10.** Any names submitted after July 10 will be listed on next year's program. Should you have further questions regarding the memorial service, please contact our office and we will be glad to help you.



## Version of Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act Signed Into Law

The final version of the Patriot Act, which was signed into law on March 9, 2006, included language similar to the Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act (HR 1088 and S 766). The original purpose of the legislation was to provide a company or fire department that donates fire control or fire rescue equipment to a volunteer fire company protection from liability for injuries or damage caused by a defect in the equipment. The protection does not extend to persons who act with malice, gross negligence or recklessness in making the donation.

The language, which goes into effect on April 9, 2006, is slightly different than the NVFC-endorsed legislation. It adds a caveat that in order to receive liability protection, donors must have the equipment recertified as meeting the manufacturer's specifications by a technician who has been certified by the manufacturer of fire control or fire rescue equipment to inspect such equipment.

NVFC is concerned that the new law creates a standard that is unreachable for organizations considering donating equipment. There is no existing entity that test used equipment for recertification or even an established process for doing so.

"Every year quality fire equipment, including hoses, fire trucks, protective clothing and breathing apparatus, with an estimated worth in the millions of dollars, is destroyed or discarded by industry and larger fire departments instead of being donated to small fire departments in order to avoid civil liability lawsuits," said NVFC Chairman Philip C. Stittleburg. "It is not clear how a donor would comply with the standard set in this new law. Even if it were possible to comply, the cost of recertification would be significant and it is doubtful that many manufacturers or donors would be willing to pay for it. The NVFC supports passage of the Good Samaritan Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Act as originally



Jeff Cash  
N C Delegate for NVFC

written to protect donors and encourage increased giving to needy volunteer fire departments." HR 1088 was introduced on March 3, 2005, by Congressman Mike Castle (R-DE) and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. It has 74 cosponsors. S 766 was introduced by Senator Rick Santorum on April 4, 2005, and was referred to the Senate committee on the Judiciary.



### Web Site—[www.ncsfa.com](http://www.ncsfa.com)

We have just completed an overhaul of our computer hardware and software in the office. Now we will begin work on our web site. Over the next couple of months, you will see a new look when you go to [www.ncsfa.com](http://www.ncsfa.com), and we

hope you will like what you see. You will have an opportunity to sign-up to receive legislative bulletins, newsletters, etc. from us. Please sign on. If you currently receive this information, you will not have to sign-up again. We will continue to re-

ceive postings to be added to the current web site, but due to the revamping of the site, additions may not be listed in a timely manner. Be watching—we will announce the launch date of the new site.



# Safety Matters

## Wear Your Seat Belt

## Slow Down

## Drive Carefully



Paul Miller  
Executive Director—NCSFA

You are going to see this theme recurring repeatedly over the next few years. Statistics prove that many of the deaths in the fire service across America could have been prevented if firefighters would buckle-up, slow down and drive safely. Speed and an adrenaline rush are a recipe for disaster. When the alarm sounds and you get behind the wheel, take a

moment to think about how important it is to drive safely to the scene. Think about how much your family depends on you and how important they are to you. Think about how badly you would feel if you injured some innocent citizen while responding to a call. Buckle your seat belt, slow down, and drive carefully no matter what you drive to the

scene. It is just as important to remember this when responding in your own vehicle as it is when driving a piece of fire apparatus. And remember to drive just as carefully when returning to the station after the call. Let's all work together, be more responsible, and save lives. That is our calling.

## 119th Annual Conference of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association 74th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs 2006 South Atlantic Fire Exposition

This year our conference will be held August 24-26, 2006 in Greensboro at the Sheraton Four Seasons. We have a great vendor show lined-up for you as well as some of the best speakers and workshops available today. This is one of the best bargains in America. It is a great time to network with your peers, see the newest in fire equipment, hear speakers discuss cutting edge topics, attend to the business of your Association, attend a variety of informative workshops, and yes party some too. I want to encourage every department to send at least one member to conference. It will pay future dividends and that's a promise! See insert in this newsletter for more information.

### Fireman of the Year Applications

Fireman of the year applications have been mailed out to the fire department chiefs. Please take the time and consideration to fill out this application with the person who would best represent your fire department as fireman of the year. Applications are due back to the NCSFA by June 15, 2006 and will be recognized at our annual banquet in Greensboro on August 26.

This is a special honor and we hope that you will submit and application.

### Relief Fund Reports

Relief fund reports will be mailed out to all Relief Fund Treasurers on June 1, 2006. This report is due back in our office post-marked no later than October 31, 2006. Remember, we must have this report in order for your fire department to be eligible for your relief fund monies next year.

If your Relief Fund Treasurer does not receive an annual report to be filled out in the mail, please contact our office so that we can provide this report to you.

### Are Your Membership Dues Paid?

# Scholarship and Grant Winners Announced

**Congratulations to our winners!**

Presidential \$6,000	Kyle J. Askins	Piney Green
Presidential \$1,500	Savanna Winders	Southport
George M Bartlett \$1,500	Ashley D. Bryson	Mills River
	Joshua R. Lakey	Sawmills
	Jordan Lowdermilk	Morganton
George M. Bartlett \$6,000	Jessica N. Matheson	West End
	Lucy E. Murphy	Parkway
	Donovan A. Turnmire	Sawmills
Herbert D. Garmon \$1,500	Amanda N. Davis	Village of Pinehurst
	Charles T. Montjoy	Robbins
	William Carson White	Whitsett
Herbert D. Garmon \$6,000	Kristen N. Gay	Zebulon
	Leah Nicole McMasters	Greensboro
	Tara A. Satterwhite	Providence
George Horace Moore \$1,500	Maegan D. Edwards	Spivey's Corner
	Cameron L. Kinlaw	Elizabethtown
	Jonathan W. Patterson	Griffin's Township
George Horace Moore \$6,000	Katie R. Bartholomew	Snow Hill
	Judah A. Emory	Comfort
	Paige A. McKeel	Walstonburg
Firefighter \$6,000	Dolly L. Hulin	Thomasville
Transfer \$3,500	Tara A. Hoxie	Durham
\$1000 At Large Grant	Brady T. Best	Gastonia
District 1 ~ \$1,000	Winfield Abee	Lovelady
District 1 ~\$500	Deborah K. Horne	Enochville
	Addison E. Hinson	Locke Township
	Ronnie Jason Workman	Mooreville
	Richard Clay Carroll	Shelby
District 2 ~ \$1,000	Samuel D. Gaither	Clemmons
District 2 ~ \$500	Brittnie Lynn Pettiford	Caldwell
	Dolly L. Hulin	Thomasville
	Traci N. Condrey	Tryo Rural
	Adam Wilson	Tyro Rural
District 3 ~ \$1,000	Michael L. Bass	Wilson
District 3 ~ \$500	Lewis B. Coble	Greenville
	Malcolm H. Smith	New Hanover County
	Charlie Hill	Cove City
	Devin T. Clark	Kill Devil Hills



**N C State Firemen's  
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