



# BURNOUT



[www.nsafd.org](http://www.nsafd.org)

(A Newsletter of the North Spartanburg Fire District)

## Helping Others Theme Of Holiday Season

The outpouring of gifts and support from our staff, crew, commissioners, and volunteers this holiday season was overwhelming. As a result, NSFD helped 5 families have a Christmas they would not otherwise have had.

There was a buzz of excitement in the air as toys, furniture, clothing, and household items began arriving at Station 1, and eventually literally filled our training area. Volunteers and duty staff members took on the awesome task of wrapping all the presents.

On Christmas morning Santa and his helpers delivered gifts to 2 of the homes. The joy on the children's faces as Santa personally called out their names and handed them their gifts was priceless, and spoke of the true meaning of Christmas.

Thanks to everyone who helped in this tremendous effort. We hope to continue the tradition next year and make it even more special for as many families as possible.



### Santa Parade

4 separate Santa parades left from Stations 1 and 2 on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, and traveled throughout the neighborhoods of North Spartanburg. As their lights flashed, horns and sirens blew, children and adults alike ran outside to see the fire engines, wave to Santa and catch candy being thrown to them.

It is hoped that we will increase our number of parades next Christmas to accommodate all the new growth in the North Spartanburg District.



### Holiday Party

Each year in December the Fire District holds a combination Christmas party and Awards Banquet.

This year our banquet was held at USC Upstate. A visit from Santa was the highlight of the party for the children attending with their parents.

During this banquet, employees and civilians are recognized for the service they have provided in the past year.

### This year's awards included:

**Career Fire Fighter of the Year:**

Lee Inman

**Chief's Service Award:**

Barry Davis

**James T. Duncan Award:**

Bruce and Kathy Hurry

**Jesse M. Bayne Life Saving Awards:**

Jeff Bagwell, Travis Stafford,  
James Westmoreland, Mike  
Palmer, Nic Fortner

**Chiefs Service Award:**

James Westmoreland

**10 years of service:**

Asst. Chief Steve Hasleden

**20 years of service:**

Asst. Chief Randy Mathis

**Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Year:**

Larry Dukes

## BURNOUT kicks off

Welcome to the very first issue of "BURNOUT", the newsletter for and about the North Spartanburg Fire Service.

It has not been decided as to how often (bi-monthly, quarterly?) our Newsletter will be published, and we would like to have your input on this. We will endeavor to bring to our volunteers, full, and part-time staff, informative information, upcoming events, and happenings in and around our stations.

The newsletter will be posted to our website ([www.nsaafd.org](http://www.nsaafd.org)), in addition initially to being mailed out to all members.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact Kathy Hurry at 599-6940 or [bkhurry@bellsouth.net](mailto:bkhurry@bellsouth.net).

## Training Corner

(Capt. Brent Lewis)

I would like to take this opportunity to explain a little more in detail the direction for the training program in 2005.

Starting in January we will begin to restructure our training schedule. I would like to start by letting everyone know that we are not "cutting down" on the amount of training we are offering; however, we are actually tripling it. We will begin conducting shift training on a weekly basis, which is open to all members and part-time staff. This will also give the company officers the opportunity to train with their shift.

On the second Monday of every month, we will hold a department wide training drill. As always, we will continue EMT In-service on the fourth Monday night of each month. I would like to encourage the non-EMT'S to attend this medical training, as no one knows when they may be required to render medical aid. There will be several months that the schedule will need to be altered (i.e. February due to a holiday), or when the need for an additional class arises. The training schedule will be kept as up to date as possible on our website: ([www.nsaafd.org](http://www.nsaafd.org)) for those with internet access.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. It is my job to provide

you with an avenue to get training – It's your job to take advantage of it. "Let's work to make everyday a training day".

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our training sessions.

Be Safe!  
Brent

## Upcoming Training and Events

In 2005, there will be 4 training burns; all occurring at ESA. Volunteers will be required to attend one burn during the year. Please let Capt. Lewis know ahead of time which burn you would like to attend.

### Upcoming training dates:

Jan 24	EMT In-service Pharmacology
Jan 31	HazMat Classroom (Volunteer) / Support Service meeting (7p)
Feb 7	EVDT Classroom Review
Feb 19	Burn @ ESA (9a-1p)
Feb 21	EVDT Skills (5-8p)
Feb 28	EMT In-service Care of the Neonate

Shift training will be conducted on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Check with the shift officer or training for schedule. Times usually 3-5 PM

## Safe and Effective Interior Fire Attack

(Part 1 of a Multi-part Series presented to the S.C.S.F.A.'s Winter Meeting)

By: Tim Sendelbach

### INTRODUCTION:

It's 02:30hrs, you and your crew are returning from your second call after midnight; you're tired and you have one thought in mind...sleep.

Suddenly, the mobile radio blares an alert tone for your company to respond to a reported residential fire. Without hesitation, you and your crew become conscious to your surroundings and ready for action. The dispatcher confirms the address, and you begin to realize, you're first due. Thoughts of an aggressive interior attack begin to pass through your mind as your driver activates the emergency equipment for your code 3 response. Now it's up to you to assume the responsibility of this ever so challenging task.

The aforementioned scenario is one that is repeated across the fire service nearly everyday. The aggressive interior fire attack is one of the most notable and rewarding tasks taken on by today's firefighters. Unfortunately, a number of dramatic changes in recent years have brought about some increasing hazards to this formidable task. Today's fireground continues to mystify even the most knowledgeable and experienced fire service experts. Changes in modern building construction (techniques and materials) coupled with the advancements in firefighting technology have brought about a desperate need to adjust our traditional fireground strategies in an effort to enhance our safety.

This, Part I of a multi-part series will address some critical actions to consider when initiating an interior fire attack on the modern fireground.

### PRESENTATION:

While the interior fire attack is one of the most prominent tasks/assignments on the modern fireground, today's fireground is littered with a number of hazards just waiting to swallow-up the overly aggressive-acting firefighter. In an effort to enhance our safety on the fireground we must first understand what has changed over the years to make this task so much more complex.

Changes on the fireground can be classified into three basic categories:

- ❑ Firefighting gear and equipment
- ❑ Building construction techniques and materials
- ❑ Regulatory standards/guidelines

## FIREFIGHTING GEAR AND EQUIPMENT

It has been said numerous times that the fire service is stern on tradition and slow to change. In some ways this is unquestionably true; in others it is far from reality. Firefighting gear and equipment research continues to bring about advancements that not only enhance the service we provide, but it also changes the way we do business – or at least it should. Advanced PPE technology has brought about much controversy in the fact that many will argue we have created a greater evil by enabling our firefighters to go in deeper and longer without the fear of thermal insult. This advancement coupled with techno gadgets (i.e. Thermal Imagers) allows us to navigate with a narrowed understanding of our surroundings.

While I agree our firefighters are at greater risk, I disagree with the accusation that technology is to blame. It is my firm belief that “we” (firefighters, fire officers and trainers) are truly the responsible party. It is our lack of cultural change, and less than aggressive efforts in the field of training that are truly to blame. The aggressive culture of the modern firefighter is unquestionably an asset to the fire service, but left unchecked, it will undoubtedly bring about an increasing number of injuries and /or deaths amongst our members.

Firefighters and fire officers alike should be provided with continuous instruction and training applicable to the use and limitations of these advanced tools. We must firmly establish a job wide understanding that it is NOT acceptable to die in a burning building.

## BUILDING CONSTRUCTION (TECHNIQUES / MATERIALS)

Today’s building construction techniques and materials are based on two defining issues - economics and esthetics. As the nation’s economy continues to struggle, and our society’s demand for cosmetically pleasing buildings moves forth, firefighters will continue to face new and challenging hazards on the fireground (some of which may be insurmountable). So, how do we address this perpetual animal that continues to haunt us? The answer while simply stated is complex in nature. First, we must aggressively educate our firefighters and fire officers in the changing building construction features which make-up our work environment. Secondly, we

must ensure that our company officers conduct an evaluation/size-up of the involved structure(s) prior to making entry into the hazardous environment. And finally, we must instill a firm understanding amongst our membership as to the value and importance of fireground risk analysis based on these well-known rules:

1. We will risk a lot to save a lot (Savable lives).
2. We will risk a little to save a little (Savable property).
3. We will risk nothing to save what is already lost (Lives and property already lost).

## REGULATORY STANDARDS / GUIDELINES

In 1992, the fire service fought defiantly against the passing of NFPA 1500 (Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program), which at the time was the most controversial document in the history of the NFPA (fielding in excess of 12,000 public comments). This document has since been surpassed by the infamous NFPA 1200, which is now known as NFPA 1710/1720. Our history of defiance towards regulatory safety standards has created a disturbing trend that jeopardizes our safety on the modern fireground. Case and point, compliance with the now aged OSHA 1910.134 – 2-in/2-out ruling still troubles fire departments across the country. Why, because we are men and women of action, we are trained to act, we are expected to act – so we think. Our tradition of “making due with a few” continues to put our members at risk. Today’s fireground in accordance with nationally published regulatory standards/guidelines provides us with staffing parameters that have been established for our safety – it’s up to us to comply with these standards 100% of the time. Selective compliance (when we want to) cannot be tolerated if we plan on creating a fire ground dedicated to our safety and survivability.

## PRE-FIRE ATTACK

The following steps are recommended actions to be performed or conducted prior to the initiation of an interior fire attack:

### Step 1: Apparatus placement

Prior to initiating any fireground assault one must consider where to place the arriving apparatus for a safe and effective attack. Company Officers should take a pessimistic approach when placing apparatus on the fireground. While a request for pessimism in the fire service may appear on the surface to be counter productive to our efforts, a pessimistic approach to apparatus positioning is quite the contrary. Apparatus operators should be trained in the skills of fireground forecasting and cue-based decision-making in hopes that they will predict what “could” happen based on the cues presented at the time of their arrival.

Consider this: The first arriving apparatus (attack unit) is suddenly over run or impinged upon by an advancing fire that is now extending to multiple exposures. Meanwhile, initial attack crews working off lines being supplied by the attack unit are suddenly faced with a limp attack line due to a loss of water (pump operator forced to abandon his/her position) or other catastrophic event (wall collapse on the apparatus) following the loss of the primary apparatus. The critical importance of “worst case” planning allows the apparatus operator to position in an effective, yet defensive position on the fireground.

### Fire ground cues for proper apparatus positioning:

- Three-sided approach if possible, attempt to leave the front face open for truck company access. Consider positioning just past or just short of the involved structure to allow for frontal access of later arriving truck crews.
- Fire location, type of occupancy, contents (Common combustibles versus hazards materials and/or volatile substances)
- Involved structure - height (Collapse zone positioning – corner placements) and radiant heat factors if totally involved, avoid becoming an exposure.
- Overhead hazards (Electric, trees, etc.), also consider obstructions such as parapet walls or overhead

signage that may affect the use of master streams or other defensive based tactics.

- ❑ Run off potential (Up hill if possible)
- ❑ Smoke/wind conditions (Up wind if possible)
- ❑ Type of fire attack – Position for defensive coverage, but not to a point that is counterproductive to an offensive fire attack.
- ❑ Defensive fire attack on arrival, forecast fire spread and potential exposures

The success or failure of an effective fireground operation is dependent upon the actions of those first arriving crews. Proper apparatus placement is the first step for a safe and effective interior fire attack.

**To be continued in the next issue of "Burnout".**

## Happy Birthday

Birthday greetings are extended to the following:

### January

Jan. 4	Kathy Hurry
Jan. 4	Jeff Bagwell
Jan. 13	Daryl Workman
Jan. 16	Sean Gosnell
Jan. 20	George Rush
Jan. 22	David Fila
Jan. 24	Cindy Frierson

Jan. 30 A very special happy 1<sup>st</sup> birthday to Ashton (Little Plug) Lewis

### February

Feb. 6	Nic Fortner
Feb. 7	Trent Harper
Feb. 17	Michael Palmer
Feb. 22	Brian Tuck

### March

Mar. 3	Donald Carson
Mar. 5	Rusty Stafford
Mar. 6	Jonathan Murphy
Mar. 9	Shelly Jennings
Mar. 18	Tom Hall
Mar. 19	Todd Deal
Mar. 20	Carroll Wolfe
Mar. 29	Pat Patton
Mar. 29	James Westmoreland

We would like to include your entire family in our birthday greetings. If you would like

for them to be included, please call Kathy Hurry at 599-6940 or by emailing at: [bkhurry@bellsouth.net](mailto:bkhurry@bellsouth.net). and give the following information:  
Name  
Relationship  
Date of Birth

## S.C. Fireman's Association Holds Winter Meeting

The South Carolina State Fireman's Association held their winter meeting on January 11 at the South Carolina Fire Academy. A training program entitled "Initiating a Safe and Effective Interior Fire Attack" was presented by Tim Sendelbach, Chief of Training Savannah (GA) Fire and Emergency Services. Part I of this training program is included on page 3 and 4 of this Newsletter, and will be continued in subsequent Newsletters.

### Topics discussed in the business meeting included:

**Legislative Day**, which will include the Centennial Celebration to be held on April 19.

**The convention, "S.C. Fire-Rescue 2005"**, which will be held July 13-16 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Proposed changes to the bi-laws and changes to the 1% guidelines will be discussed.

These meetings are open to all members of the association, not just chief officers. Everyone is encouraged to attend because this is **YOUR** association.

## USFA Counts 107 Firefighter Fatalities In 2004

(Submitted by Captain Brent Lewis)

**Department of Homeland Security:**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Despite continued advances in firefighting equipment, Incident Command System training, operations

and safety training and improved communications, 107 U.S. firefighters died in the line of duty in 2004, a figure released today by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

### There were a total of 104 incidents that took the lives of firefighters in 2004:

- Career firefighters, those who are employed full-time as firefighters, comprised 29 deaths (27%) in 2004.
- Volunteer, seasonal, and part-time firefighters accounted for 78 deaths.
- Half of the firefighters that died in 2004 died from traumatic injuries such as asphyxiation, burns, drowning, vehicle crashes, and other physical injuries.
- The balance of firefighter deaths in 2004 were attributed to non-traumatic injuries such as heart attacks and strokes. Heart attacks caused the deaths of 49 on-duty firefighters.
- Nine firefighters died in 2004 in response to wildland fires (grass, trees, brush). This is the lowest level of wildland-related firefighter deaths since 1996 and represents a significant drop from the 29 wildland-related firefighter deaths that occurred in 2003.
- Three firefighters were killed when fire apparatus backed over them.
- A Pennsylvania incident occurred at the fire station and was not associated with an emergency response.
- Five firefighters were killed when they were struck by passing vehicles at the scene of an emergency.
- Additionally, four firefighters were killed in falls from fire department vehicles.
- A Massachusetts firefighter died when he fell from a responding engine company. This department also suffered a fatal fall injury involving fire apparatus in 1984.
- A Kentucky firefighter was shot and killed as she approached an emergency that involved domestic violence.
- Twenty firefighters died in vehicle collisions.

- Seven deaths involved the crash of firefighters' personal vehicles.
- Three firefighters died in aircraft crashes; one in a medical helicopter and two wildland fire fighting aircraft.
- Five firefighters died in crashes that involved responding fire apparatus.
- Firefighter deaths took place in 40 states. Pennsylvania had the highest number of deaths with 17 firefighters killed; Kentucky suffered seven deaths, followed by California, Florida, Illinois, and New Jersey with five deaths each.
- The average age of firefighters killed while on-duty in 2004 was 47. The average age of a firefighter that died of a heart attack or stroke was 52, and the average age of firefighters who died of traumatic injuries was 42.

## S. C. Fire Statistics

(Submitted by Capt. Trent Harper)

The SC Department of L.L.R. has distributed South Carolina's Fire Fatalities for the 2004 year. Once again Spartanburg is leading the way in fire related deaths with a total of 6 in the County out of 66 in the state. Heating was the number one killer this year and smoking related deaths ran a close second.

Out of the 66 deaths, 26 had smoke detectors, but only 10 were in operating condition.

The leading age range for fire related in S.C. is 41-50.

## Over all fire picture in 2004 in the USA:

The US has the highest fire death rate in the industrial world with 13.5 deaths per million

There were 3,925 civilians that lost their lives as a result of fire

111 fire fighters and officers lost their life in the line of duty  
81 percent of fire deaths occurred in a resident  
1.6 million Fires were reported

Arson fire contributed to 37,000 intentionally set fire that resulted in 307 civilian deaths

Arson fires resulted in \$692 million dollars of property damage



## National Fire Fighters Memorial for Fallen Fire Fighters

## Fire Corps Announces Official Launch

On December 9, 2004, the official launch of a national Fire Corps Program occurred.

As a program partner of President George W. Bush's grass-roots initiative Citizen Corps; Fire Corps will work through local fire services across the country to offer citizen education, training, and volunteer opportunities

The local fire service has long been a common tie in the community; a place to meet, a place to socialize, the home of little boys' and girls' heroes; a place for the community to join and help each other in times of need, and a place to give back.

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, the need for that community bond has never been greater. With the increasing demands placed on the fire service, not only in response to the threat of terrorism, but by the changing demands of the fire service, it has become increasingly harder for many fire departments to maintain that bond, provide the services expected, and do its job in an efficient manner.

Fire Corps creates the connection between the fire department and the community, providing a vehicle for

citizens to find out which fire departments in their area are looking for help, and providing resources that create and sustain Fire Corps programs in the departments in their community.

## Why join Fire Corps?

While Fire Corps is a new initiative of the White House and the Department of Homeland Security, citizen outreach programs in the fire department are not new. There are many exemplary programs (like ours at N.S.F.D.) throughout the U.S. through affiliation with paid fire departments, and community based volunteer fire departments.

By N.S.F.D. affiliating themselves with Fire Corps; we will be provided with:

1. An expanding database of fire department programs in the U.S., which will only continue to expand
2. Program documents (handbooks, application forms, evaluation forms, etc.)
3. Links to other websites that have information on program considerations

And in the future, Fire Corps will offer:

1. Additional sample policies, protocols and procedures
2. Training curricula
3. On-site technical assistance
4. Peer-to-peer program assistance
5. Regional symposiums

We will be bringing you more information on this initiative over the next several months. We would like your input on this subject, and whether we should move forward to align ourselves with this effort.

## N.S.F.D. Receives Grant

North Spartanburg Fire District was fortunate to be one of the recipients of the 2004 Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program. We were officially notified on December 2, 2004 of our grant award in the amount of \$119,344.00.

The priority goal for this grant will be backup generators for our sub stations.